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LD301404 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iranian Missile Attack—An Iranian missile attack on a "residential" area of Baghdad killed several people and wounded others, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. He warned that Iraq will punish Iran severely for the attack, which occurred at 2200 GMT on 29 October. An IRGC communique broadcast by Tehran radio said the surface-to-surface missile was aimed at the Iraqi Air Force headquarters, in the center of Baghdad. The attack was in retaliation for recent Iraqi air raids on Iran, the communique asserted, and Iraqi cities will continue to be targeted until Iraq stops its "troublemaking."

An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA stated that Iran continued its artillery bombardment of Basra 29 October, killing 13 people and wounding 46.

Diplomacy—During talks with visiting Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, President Saddam Husayn stressed Iraq's rejection of any attempt to "misinterpret" UN Resolution 598 or change its main contents, INA reported. Their talks also dealt with the "firm relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Iraq in all fields," the agency noted, and Vorontsov gave the Iraqi president a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Vorontsov subsequently told Iraq's *Al-Thawrah* of his "great satisfaction" at being received by Saddam Husayn and affirmed that the Soviet Union and Iraq both agree on the need for an urgent solution to the Iran-Iraq war, Voice of the Masses radio reported. Moscow radio said Vorontsov drew the Iraqi side's attention to Soviet proposals to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Gulf on a collective basis by UN forces. The Soviet official arrived in Kuwait 30 October to convey a message from Gorbachev to the amir, KUNA disclosed.

A message from Saddam Husayn to the amir of Bahrain focused on the war, bilateral relations, and the current Arab situation, INA reported. The message was delivered 28 October by Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, who later arrived in the YAR with a message for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, according to Sanaa radio. Ramadan emphasized to the North Yemenis the need for the Arab summit to pass resolutions that will "sort out the defeatist stands" of Arab regimes which support Iran, INA noted. Another Iraqi envoy recently visited Sudan and the PDRY with messages from Saddam Husayn, INA revealed. A third envoy arrived in Morocco with a message from the Iraqi leader to King Hassan II on the upcoming Arab summit, Rabat radio reported.

Iran-Turkey

Iranian and Turkish oil officials signed an agreement in Tehran whereby Iran will barter crude oil for Turkish kerosene, IRNA reported. The two sides also discussed projects for the construction of pipelines to carry Iranian gas and oil through Turkey.

Lebanon

ASALA claimed responsibility for the attack on three French soldiers in East Beirut, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. A spokesman for the Armenian organization said the operation was designed to pressure the French Government into releasing ASALA members held in French prisons.

In another development, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited an *Al-Hawadith* report about a plot to assassinate Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy during his recent visit to Beirut. Changes were made in Murphy's schedule after U.S. and Lebanese security services learned of the plan, the magazine said.

Israeli forces killed several Hizballah "terrorists" during an operation north of Israel's security zone, according to an announcement broadcast by IDF radio 30 October. Voice of National Resistance radio confirmed that two Islamic Resistance fighters were killed in an engagement with the IDF.

Israel

Defense Ministry sources cited by IDF radio accused Israeli and foreign newspapers of having published "totally unfounded" accounts of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks on Iran at a 28 October press conference. Rabin viewed the current Iranian regime as a "bitter enemy," not as a friend, the sources pointed out, though he did note that Iran was a friend in the past and expressed hope that this could happen again when "insane" Shi'ite fundamentalism passes away. Rabin also asserted that Saudi Arabia is financing the Palestinian "Islamic Jihad" group in the Gaza Strip, according to a *Ma'ariv* report on his remarks.

Mauritania

The coup plot foiled on 22 October could signify a renewal of black unrest which may have very serious consequences for Mauritania's national unity, AFP reported. The names of the three arrested coup leaders indicate they are from the black Toucouleur and Soninke groups, AFP said, and a former interior minister who was arrested after the coup attempt is also a Toucouleur. "Reliable" sources in Nouakchott disclosed that up to 50 people were arrested in the wake of the abortive coup, the agency noted.

Libya

Western media reports that a former U.S. gangster held contacts with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi were dismissed by JANA's international affairs editor, who accused the United States of making such allegations in order to insult the Libyan leader. The editor viewed the allegations as illogical because "no sensible person would dare to contact a chief of a terrorist organization in a recorded international telephone call registered by the American surveillance systems."

DRA

The PDPA Politburo decided to divide the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs into two ministries, one for tribal and border affairs and the other for nationalities, Kabul radio reported. The old ministry had proved incapable of carrying out alone the tasks assigned to it, the radio said.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi on Relations With Syria, Other Issues

NC291540 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] An interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has appeared in today's *Al-Safir*. In this interview, Qaddumi said that the PLO's relations with Al-Jumayyil are satisfactory. Qaddumi also spoke about the PLO's relations with Syria and reported that messages are being exchanged between Syria and the PLO.

Qaddumi stated: Some PNC members have been in touch with Syrian leaders. They briefed us on the outcome of these consultations, which are aimed at establishing brotherly ties with Syria. The Palestinian leaders prepared a memorandum on the Middle East situation and the need to reinforce pan-Arab solidarity through stronger ties between Syria and the Palestinians, as both sides are confronting major challenges in the region. A delegation went to meet with the Syrian leaders, who promised favorable moves in the near future. Efforts are still being made to build normal relations with Syria.

Asked about PLO ties with Amin al-Jumayyil, Qaddumi told *Al-Safir*: Our ties with the Lebanese president are perfectly normal. He represents the legitimate authority in the country. I met with Al-Jumayyil at the United Nations. We discussed the need for coordination during the Arab summit meeting to find a formula for joint Arab efforts and a way to defuse inter-Arab disputes and agree on resolutions which are satisfactory to all parties in matters regarding domestic affairs.

Al-Safir asked Qaddumi to elaborate on the significance of this remark in relation to the camps war. He said: I do not think that his excellency the president is involved in any direct way in the camps war. We know who is waging this war against the camps, but, as I said, we do not want to open the wounds. We want to create a favorable atmosphere for the settlement of disputes and for reaching agreement with all the national forces in Lebanon, without exception.

Asked if the camps war will be discussed at the Amman summit, Qaddumi replied: This is certainly one issue which Arab presidents and leaders should take up with the parties concerned in order to reach a consensus.

Qaddumi was asked whether the PLO is ready to commit itself to ending the camps war. He asserted: We are acting in self-defense. How can a beleaguered man withdraw from a battle which is being imposed on him?

Questioned about the prospects for an international conference, Qaddumi expressed the belief that no conference will be held in the foreseeable future.

Concerning the Soviet Union and Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Moscow, Qaddumi said: The Soviet Union is prepared to attend the conference and to uphold the UN resolutions. Yasir 'Arafat is going to Moscow before the Arab summit to attend the [Russian revolution] celebrations. We make frequent visits to the Soviet Union to coordinate our stands on political issues in the area, particularly the question of an international conference.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Begins; Officials Arrive

Reduced Schedule Suggested

BK280949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries are to consider a move to cut SAARC's schedule of activities by 30 to 40 percent as they begin their presummit exercise in Kathmandu tomorrow. The proposal is contained in a report of the Programming Committee of senior officials of the SAARC, which concluded its 2-day meeting. The report is based on a thorough expert-level scrutiny at which the chairmen of the 11 technical committees in various areas of regional cooperation considered reducing the schedule of activities.

A formal approval to a South Asia food security reserve to counter scarcities and unexpected shortages in member countries is likely to emerge in the summit beginning from the 2d of next month. A food reserves board is envisaged to review the overall size of the stock in the light of changing scenario in the region.

India Urges Anti-Terrorism Action

BK291325 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] India has suggested further consultations among the member countries of SAARC on a draft regional convention on terrorism before finalizing it. This was stated by the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon, while addressing the SAARC Standing Committee meeting in Kathmandu today. Mr Menon, who handed over the chairmanship of the Standing Committee to his Nepalese counterpart, Mr Narendra Bikram Shah, said that India has always sought to reinforce her national self-reliance by collective self-reliance pursued through the Nonaligned Movement. India wants to bring the concept to SAARC also.

The Sri Lankan foreign secretary also called for a joint stand against terrorism. He wanted careful consideration of all aspects of the problem.

The Pakistan foreign secretary favored early finalization of the draft convention on terrorism. He said the setting up of South Asian food security reserve will help the member countries in meeting any emergency situation. Bhutan also welcomed the idea.

India has announced that it will contribute 1 crore 75 lakh rupees for SAARC activities during 1988-89, an increase of 25 lakh rupees over this year's contribution.

Bhutan Foreign Minister Arrives

BK281532 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dawa Tsering arrived in Kathmandu today to attend the third SAARC summit meeting. Mr Tsering was received at the Tribhuvan International Airport by Minister for Foreign Affairs Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya.

Talking to reporters at the airport, Mr Tsering hoped that the Kathmandu summit would be a landmark in regional cooperation. He said Bhutan was keen to push the proposal for greater participation of the mass media to promote regional cooperation. The Bhutanese minister said: We are hopeful in this beautiful environment to make a new and significant base of development of regional cooperation.

Sri Lankan, Maldivian Ministers Arrive

BK300926 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] The foreign ministers of SAARC nations have started arriving in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu, for their meeting beginning tomorrow in preparation for the third SAARC summit. The Sri Lanka and the Maldives foreign ministers arrived this morning. Other ministers are expected by the evening.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Hameed, said the SAARC summit will provide an opportunity for better regional understanding. He said SAARC nations have made substantial progress toward achieving some understanding on suppressing terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Standing Committee of the SAARC summit resumed its deliberations this morning. All India Radio [AIR] special correspondent Ratan Salve understands that the foreign secretaries are now considering a document which will contain their recommendations to be placed before the foreign ministers' meeting tomorrow. The Standing Committee has also before it the report of the Programming Committee.

The SAARC secretary general, Mr Abul Ahsan, in an interview to AIR correspondent Jaswant Roy, hoped that the third summit of heads of state and government will come out with something concrete reflecting the hopes and aspirations of the people in the region. He said consultations in the Standing Committee are going on well in a spirit of friendship, understanding and mutual accommodation.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Gulf War

PM291445 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Oct 87 pp 25, 26, 28

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: President al-Jumayyil has mentioned the dangers of the Iranian dimension in Lebanon. In view of the good relations between Algeria and Iran and the efforts for national reconciliation in Lebanon, is Algeria assuming any role with regard to the lawful Lebanese Government's apprehension regarding the Iranian dimension?

Taleb Ibrahimi: With regard to our relations with Iran, we think Arab causes are assisted by the existence of a bridge with Iran. My recent visit there was supported by all Arab brothers including the Iraqis. That visit followed Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's visit and the entire discussion dealt with Resolution 598. What does concern us is a peaceful settlement and a cease-fire. We believe a cease-fire would have a strong effect, even on Iranian and Iraqi public opinion. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Are the Iranian demands in the secretary general's report, with which you must have been acquainted on your visit to Tehran, impossible or can one rely on them?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We cannot judge statements, intentions, or maneuvers. We can judge public statements which say: We accept a cease-fire if it coincides with the creation of a commission to identify the aggressor.

Al-Hawadith: In your opinion, is there anything preventing that?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We say that if we do achieve a cease-fire then that would be positive.

Al-Hawadith: Whatever form the cease-fire may take and whatever the preconditions?

Taleb Ibrahimi: Whatever the preconditions.

Al-Hawadith: Iran says there is a need to identify Iraq as the aggressor and it is asking that it be condemned and punished. Is that a demand which the international community can accept?

Taleb Ibrahimi: No. If we deal with the matter of punishment, then the demands would be impossible. We are in favor of setting up a commission and achieving a cease-fire since the Iraqis have a file and the Iranians too. It could be a long process. The important thing is that there should be a cease-fire. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: What impression did you get during your efforts with the Iranians concerning the war and the Gulf crisis?

Taleb Ibrahimi: My impression is that there is a new tone, which I noticed only on my recent visit to Tehran. We did not hear the precondition of toppling the regime which we have always rejected. We did not hear it on this occasion. On this occasion they spoke about the Security Council resolution, but said nothing concerning the toppling of the Iraqi regime. This indicates that there is a new tone.

Al-Hawadith: Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i spoke about "punishing the aggressor" in his speech to the General Assembly.

Taleb Ibrahimi: I did not hear that phrase at all on my visit to Tehran and Perez de Cuellar did not hear it during his visit.

Al-Hawadith: Is the presence of fleets in the Gulf a cause of escalation and expansion of the conflict?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We are against the presence of fleets in the Mediterranean and the Gulf, which is a principled viewpoint because the presence of the fleets escalates and internationalizes the fighting which would otherwise be between two countries. It has expanded the war. We have always been against the outbreak of this war, its continuation, its spread, and the heavy losses which the Iraqi and Iranian peoples have paid so dearly. The spread of the war is very dangerous. This war has expanded and begun to threaten fraternal states. The security of the Gulf concerns us because there are fraternal states in the Gulf.

Al-Hawadith: How do the Iranians respond when you tell them that?

Taleb Ibrahimi: What we say at the Arab League is the same as what we say to the Iranians and there are some things to which they reply and others they do not. We say that the war's expansion has started to threaten fraternal states in the Gulf and we have pointed to Kuwait in particular.

Al-Hawadith: In your opinion sanctions ought not to be discussed?

Taleb Ibrahimi: Experience shows that severing relations or imposing sanctions does not produce results.

Al-Hawadith: The Americans have threatened to proceed to the stage of punitive measures if efforts fail to persuade Iran to implement Resolution 598, whereas the Soviets say that matters ought not to be rushed and more of a respite ought to be given. Which, in your opinion, is the correct view?

Taleb Ibrahimi: Severing relations and sanctions do not produce results.

Al-Hawadith: With respect to developing Soviet-Iranian relations, do you think that these relations are a new development, and what are the repercussions for the region if you do agree that they are new?

Taleb Ibrahimi: I do not have the information to convince me that there are new relations and we use the same language in speaking with the Arabs as we do with the Iranians. So in Iran I spoke about all these matters, about its threat to the Gulf, and we even talked about the events in Mecca because our view in Algeria is that the holy places are not for political demonstrations.

I said to them that at the time of the Algerian war of liberation Algerian pilgrims did not demonstrate. We may have demonstrated in all the world's capitals, but not in the holy places. So we aired our views in Tehran about the events in Mecca as we have done in other places. We also aired our views about the territorial integrity of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Allow me to return to the matter of expanding the war. You previously said that settlement of the problem of Kuwait is part of the efforts being made at the Security Council to settle the problem as a whole. Have the Iranians shown any readiness to desist from threatening Kuwait?

Taleb Ibrahimi: Of course. They have accusations and they think the Gulf states, Kuwait in particular, are helping Iraq. Are these accusations true? I do not know. That is their response with respect to Kuwait in particular, and they have no comments about Oman, the Emirates, or Qatar. As far as Kuwait is concerned, the Iranians think Kuwait acts as a strategic extension of Iraq. [passage omitted]

Chad

Sudanese Mediation on Libyan Conflict Rejected

JN291124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1028 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (SUNA)—*Al-Ushu'* today cited a highly placed, unidentified source as saying that the Chadian authorities have rejected Sudanese mediation to end the Chad-Libya conflict. This mediation would have been undertaken by a delegation led by State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din. The newspaper noted that the source had referred to Chad's repeated armed incursions against Sudan's western borders following statements by some Sudanese officials. These officials claimed that Libya has a right to the Aozou Strip, which is located on the Libya-Chad border. The source stated that Chad will repeat its operations directly or through insurgents to achieve its goals.

Egypt

Al-Baz Holds Talks With Ethiopian Delegation

NC291936 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has asserted that Egypt is making every possible effort to bring about an understanding and to resolve differences among the countries of the Horn of Africa. This, he said, is in the interests of all the countries of the region.

Dr al-Baz made these remarks in a statement to our radio correspondent after talks held today with the members of the Ethiopian delegation, led by Ethiopian Vice President Amanuel Michael, who are currently visiting Cairo.

Dr al-Baz said that the talks had centered on ways to bolster bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Ethiopia, particularly in the economic and political fields, in accordance with the agreement signed in Addis Ababa by President Mubarak and Mengistu. The talks also dealt with the current situation in the Horn of Africa.

Dr al-Baz added that the resolution of differences between Sudan and Ethiopia, and between Ethiopia and Somalia, is the responsibility of the parties directly involved.

The head of the Ethiopian delegation has stated that the members of the delegation are looking forward to meeting with President Mubarak. They will give him a message from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

People's Assembly Officials Return From Kuwait

NC300735 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait has expressed its gratitude and warm feelings for the Egyptian Government and people in appreciation for the efforts President Husni Mubarak is exerting on behalf of Kuwait in the wake of the Iranian aggression.

Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the Foreign Ministry's International Committee, returned to Cairo last night following a 5-day visit to Kuwait. While there, they delivered a message from President Mubarak to Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

20-Cent Increase in Oil Prices Announced

NC291957 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 29 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation announced a new increase in the export price of various types of crude oil this evening. The increase of 20 U.S. cents per barrel will be effective for 15 days beginning on 1 November, after which prices will be reviewed.

The new Egyptian crude oil prices are as follows: Suez Gulf and Ra's al-Bihar [name as received] crude $16.90 per barrel; Bala'im mixture crude $16.05 per barrel; Ra's Badran crude $15.55 per barrel; and Ra's Gharib crude $14.95 per barrel.

Libya

Leader's Ties With U.S. 'Gangster' Denied

LD291119 Tripoli JANA in English 0853 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tumur [October] 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The Western media reported news alleging that "a former American gangster" had contacts with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The international affairs editor in JANA commented about these allegations saying:

"The allegations come under the continuous acts of deception conducted by the United States to insult the leader of the revolution. The logic falsifies these imperialist allegations, because no sensible person would dare to contact a chief of a terrorist organization in a recorded international telephone call registered by the American surveillance systems".

America, he added, has the necessary technology to interfere and register foreign calls through its advanced technical systems, let alone recording a long call inside America.

Accords on Joint Companies Signed With Algeria

LD291318 Tripoli JANA in English 0931 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Misratah, Al-Tumur [October] 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Dr. Ahmad Fathi ibn Shatwan, the Libyan secretary of industry, and Brother Faysal Boudraa, the Algerian minister of heavy industries, signed last night in Misratah draft agreements to establish a number of joint industrial companies, amongst them, companies to manufacture light cargo cars and transport cars, diesel engines and high power transformers.

Further industrial projects are in the pipeline to be signed in the coming days for joint companies in the field of electronics, electrical appliances, household utilities and other light industries.

An agreement to cooperate in the field of iron and steel was also established including constructing an iron and steel complex in Misratah.

A long term strategy of cooperation, economic integration and establishing a concrete industrial base was also agreed upon so as to specify the industrial potentials and the raw materials available in the two countries.

It was agreed that a work team from the two countries should be formed to put the strategy into useful usage for the benefit of people in Algeria and the Great Jamahiriyah. The products of the two countries should be quantified both for processed or semi-processed commodities, so that a marketing policy can be set to distribute them between Algeria and the Jamahiriyah.

The two parties agreed to set priorities in joint industries, so that those for which the raw materials are available can be established first example the iron and steel industries. [sentence as received]

Palestinian Leaders Arrive in Tripoli

NC030943 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Brothers Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary general of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement—Fatah; Abu Khalil al-'Amlah, assistant secretary general of the Fatah Movement; and Abu 'Ali Mahdi and Abu Jabr, members of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement—Fatah, arrived in Tripoli last night.

U.S. Said Instigating Chadian Attacks on Sudan

LD291819 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 29 Oct 87

[From the "Reports" program]

[Text] The Sudanese newspaper *Al-Rayah* yesterday reported that authorities in Sudan's Darfur Province had sent an urgent cable to officials in Khartoum. The message stated that a group of 150 armed men from agent Ibri [Arabic for "the Hebrew," a play on the name "Habre"] gangs had attacked several villages in the vicinity of the Sudanese town of Al-Junaynah. The following is a report on this matter:

It seems that agent Habre was brought into this world to create problems on the African Continent and to threaten the safety and security of countries that border Chad. Following his attack on the southern part of the Great Jamahiriyah—at the instigation of U.S. imperialism and French imperialist circles—his gangs began aggressive, terrorist forays against areas on the Sudan-Chad border and several villages in Darfur Province.

According to the Sudanese newspaper *Al-Rayah*, agent Habre's gangs have attacked Sudanese villages, destroyed parts of them, and killed a large number of

Sudanese citizens. Sudanese officials from the Al-Fashir region have gone to Nyala to supervise security and military arrangements to confront the aggressive acts of the agent Habre gangs.

Al-Rayah, quoting informed sources, says that looting operations by the agent Habre gangs in Darfur Province were not for the purpose of booty but instead were carried out for political reasons. The *Al-Usbu'* newspaper had earlier reported attacks on the Sudanese village of Suni and cattle rustling by Habre gangs. The Sudanese newspaper *Al-Ittihad* had reported that Habre gangs have destroyed some villages north of Kutum, killing a number of Sudanese and stealing their cattle and property. The Sudanese newspaper *Al-Adwa'* claimed that events in Darfur Province in western Sudan took a serious turn last week as armed looting by Habre gangs against the local populace escalated. It noted that since the situation is now beyond the control of the police, nearly the only alternative open to Sudan's authorities is to send the nation's Armed Forces to intervene.

During the past 2 weeks, Sudanese newspapers reported that Habre gangs had looted the property of Sudanese citizens in Darfur Province and massacred 17 Sudanese citizens.

In view of the events and developments between Sudan and the agent regime in the Ndjamena colony, and between Sudan and U.S. imperialism, it would not be surprising if acts of the Habre gangs were organized by the U.S. Administration. This is particularly true following Washington's demand that Khartoum allow elements of U.S. security to enter Sudan.

The Sudanese newspaper *Al Ayyam* commented on this U.S. demand and declared it flagrant U.S. interference in Sudan's domestic affairs. The newspaper asked: How can we explain the insistence of the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum on the need to have 500 more U.S. security men? This is something that the embassy has striven for unceasingly.

Another development between the U.S. Administration and agent Habre was reported by reliable Chadian sources; namely, that a number of U.S. experts are in the Ndjamena colony and have been distributed among the various camps to train Habre's elements to use U.S. weapons.

It is therefore not unlikely that the U.S. hand lies behind the Habre gangs' attacks against western Sudan. These actions seek to destabilize the region so that the U.S. Administration can run it as it likes. Yesterday the southern portion of the Great Jamahiriyah was the object of attacks. Now it is Sudan. Tomorrow it will be the other parts of Africa that border Chad.

Mauritania

40-50 People Said Arrested After Coup Attempt

AB291712 Paris AFP in French 1620 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 29 Oct (AFP)—It was learned from reliable sources in the Mauritanian capital today that 40 to 50 people, including officers, soldiers, and 3 civilians, were arrested after the abortive coup d'etat in Mauritania that was announced yesterday evening by the Nouakchott government. The same sources disclosed that Colonel Anna Amadou Babaly, director of the Mauritanian Insurance Company and former minister of the interior, was arrested today in Nouakchott. His involvement in the coup plot is not yet known. Col Babaly is of the Toucouleur ethnic group, which is, along with the Soninkes, a major black African ethnic group in Mauritania, and was dismissed in August 1986 for partially covering up black agitation.

According to the first reports available in Nouakchott, the putschists were led mainly by three officers: Captain Sy Bocar, deputy permanent under secretary to the head of state; Lieutenant N'gaide Ali, squadron leader of the Presidential Guard; and Lieutenant Dia Abderrahmane, officer of the Permanent Guard of the National Army Headquarters. Observers note that these names are either Toucouleur or Soninke.

Reliable sources in Nouakchott indicate that the instigators of the coup d'etat were to begin their operation by seizing the president and assassinating high officials in the regime. Then they would have captured the national radio and announced their program. According to the same sources, the putschists disagreed about their next steps, which they reportedly decided to announce after seizing power. The possibility of failure was supposedly minimized by their positions of trust in the Army.

The clandestine black African movement African Liberation Forces of Mauritania, FLAM, has asserted in a communique sent to AFP in Dakar that 200 black officers and junior officers were arrested when this plot was discovered. The communique specifically mentioned the names of three black captains and five lieutenants who are of the Soninke or Toucouleur ethnic groups. Ten Moorish soldiers have also been arrested according to the FLAM communique.

AFP Views Coup Motives

AB291502 Paris AFP in French 1359 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Dakar, 29 Oct (AFP)—Observers in Dakar believe that the "plot" that the Mauritanian Government says it foiled last Thursday [22 October] seems to be the most important ever uncovered by the regime of Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya since he came to power in December 1984. It is important because the approximately 20 civilians and soldiers, including 3 in

the president's entourage, who the interior minister says have been arrested for plotting are all black, although this has not been officially confirmed.

If these arrests in the black community are confirmed, this "plot" would represent the most important action by black Africans against the establishment, which is primarily controlled by the Baydanes, Berber Arabs, and would be a resurgence at a higher level of the black African unrest that reappeared in September and October [word indistinct]. Mauritanian Interior Minister Djibril Ould Abdellahi was very laconic in announcing this "plot". He specified neither the number of people arrested nor the ethnic group to which they belonged. He provided no details on the intentions of the plotters, except that they wanted to overthrow the regime.

That is why observers are wondering about the real objectives of the "plotters" [word indistinct] blacks who until now were merely asking for a fair distribution among the various ethnic groups of the posts of responsibility in the political and economic fields. Did they want to take over or to simply overthrow the head of state so that new Baydane officials more likely to consider their grievances could take power?

In either case, according to experts it is certain that a coup plot based on ethnic considerations would have very serious consequences for national unity in this country of less than 2 million inhabitants. Observers note that in any event, the "conspiracy", by adding to the list of black figures arrested in 1 year, creates a new situation which could bring about an increase in the discontent felt by the black population. This black population already has trouble accepting the rush of rich Baydanes towards their southern lands as the completion of projects to develop the Senegal River Basin approaches.

This movement towards the more fertile and irrigated lands is essentially due to the persistent drought plaguing Mauritania, which has ruined most of the Baydane nomads and driven them to lead a sedentary life. It is regularly denounced by the main black African opposition group, the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania, a clandestine movement, and has led to frequent clashes between Baydanes and blacks.

Observers also wonder why Mauritania ordered the closure of its land borders with Senegal on 26 October and positioned a rather large military contingent there. It is possible that this is in response to Senegal's decision to establish a health unit along its borders because of a yellow fever outbreak in the southern regions of Mauritania. According to the same observers, the decision could also be a sign that Mauritanian authorities are trying to prevent people involved in the coup plot from leaving the country.

Morocco

King Inaugurates Promotion, Planning Council

LD291510 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Fes, Oct 29 (MAP)—King Hassan II inaugurated here Wednesday the works of the Higher Council of National Promotion and Planning. The sovereign who was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed made a speech defining guidelines and priorities for the coming orientation plan 198-92 [as received] for economic and social development. Planning, said the sovereign, implies perfect assessment by the state of needs and means and choice of priority sectors for promotion. The objective is the upgrading of living standards of all citizens and their dignity through education, training and adequate qualifactions to be fully operational in daily life.

Priority sectors, he went on, include agriculture which requires further modernization and use of advanced techniques, small and medium enterprises which do not necessitate heavy investments, and human resources. The Moroccan citizen must be trained to become an exportable asset that promotes awareness about Moroccan realities and helps with his know-how in developmental efforts by Third World countries, he added. The sovereign stressed the heaviness of the burden on the state which has to meet the needs of 350,000 (newborns) every year and at every stage of their lives, saying local councils should be granted further administrative leeway to carry out their task. These local councils, he insisted, should be the major interlocutors of the government in charting out regional orientation plans.

Alleviating the burden on the state especially with regard to the public and semi-public sectors should be considered through a new approach and methodology that respects Moroccan environment and the dignity of citizens, he said. The sovereign also underlined the necessity to provide more credits with reasonable rates.

The ceremony was attended by members of the government led by Premier Azzedine Laraki, Ahmed Osman, speaker of the House of Representatives, advisers to the sovereign Ahmed Reda Guedira, Ahmed Bensouda and Mohamed Aouad, and members of the Higher Council of National Promotion and Planning. The sovereign later hosted a lunch reception in honour of participants who will continue Thursday their works at the Ministry of the Interior in Rabat.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives With Letter on Summit

LD292328 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, member of the Iraqi RCC and envoy of President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II, arrived in Fes this evening. In a statement to the press at Fes-Saise airport, the Iraqi envoy said he is carrying a personal message from

President Saddam Husayn to his majesty concerning the emergency Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November and developments in the region. Mr Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud was received at the airport by Moulay Mehdi Alaoui, governor of Fes; the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco; and a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Sudan

Iraqi Envoy Leaves Khartoum for Aden 28 Oct

JN291717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's envoy, RCC member Hasan 'Ali, left Khartoum for Aden today at the end of a short visit during which he delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani. The president's message dealt with bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, and preparations for convening the Arab summit in Amman. Hasan 'Ali praised the results of his talks with Al-Mirghani and the positive atmosphere that prevailed throughout the talks.

Tunisia

Algerian Interior Minister Arrives in Tunis

LD291442 Algiers APS in English 1032 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, 29/10/87 (APS)—El Hadi Khdiri, minister of interior, arrived Wednesday here at the head of an important delegation for a friendship and working visit. He told the press that his visit falls in the frame of good relations linking the two brotherly countries.

"I am paying a friendship and working visit at the invitation of Tunisian premier and minister of interior, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, he declared adding that he is carrying a message of fraternity and consideration from President Chadli Bendjedid to his brother president Habib Bourguiba." [quotation marks as received] He concluded that he was convinced that his visit will contribute in the reinforcement of links between the two countries.

Bahrain

Iraqi Deputy Premier Ramadan Continues Visit

Delivers Message to Amir

JN281418 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, Oct 28, INA—Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, today received here a message from President Saddam Husayn pertinent to means of deepening bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war and the current Arab situation.

The message was conveyed to the Bahraini amir by member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Iraqi First Deputy Premier Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan who met the amir of Bahrain today in the presence of Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

The audience was attended on the Bahraini side by Crown Prince, Commander-in-Chief of Bahraini Defence Forces Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and Bahrain's ambassador to Iraq. On the Iraqi side the audience was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain.

The Iraqi first deputy premier had arrived here earlier today from Baghdad on a visit to Bahrain.

He told INA before departure that he was carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to the amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, concerning Iraqi-Bahrain relations, the Iraq-Iran war and the situation on the Arab arena.

Mr Ramadan, in his pre-departure statement, said that his current tour of a number of brotherly Arab countries came within the framework of fostering relations between Iraq and these countries, conducting consultations and discussing coordination with them in a way that "serves goals of the Arab nation, contributes to toeing its line and strengthens the pan-Arab stand in the face of conspiracies and attacks by Khomeyniists and Zionists."

Mr Ramadan mentioned that he would discuss with Bahraini officials the Iraq-Iran war, the current Arab situation and preparations already under to convene the Arab summit in Amman. Mr Ramadan expressed deep confidence that Amman's summit would open up new venues in the process of national progress, stressing that Arab monarchs and heads of state were determined this time to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities in the face of dangers encountering the Arab countries because of overt and strategic collaboration between the regime of Khomeyni and the Zionists entity, which continued to intensify their aggressive, expansionist policy against the Arab land.

The Iraqi first deputy premier reiterated that attempts by agents among the Arab rulers, who had been trying to prevent Arab heads of state from meeting and endeavouring to maintain the Arab atmosphere of discord, would be thwarted when the would-be Arab summit in Amman "adopts a unified Arab stand and take serious decision against the Zionist Iranian regime, which has continued its hostilities against the Arab land and rejected all peaceful international resolutions."

Departs Manama for Sanaa

JN281528 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1415 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, left Manama today at noon for Sanaa at the end of a short visit to Bahrain. During his visit, the Iraqi official delivered a message from Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president, to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, and other state officials saw the Iraqi visitor off.

Kuwait

USSR's Vorontsov Arrives With Gorbachev Note

LD300928 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 30 (KUNA)—First Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov arrived here Friday on a 24 hours visit to Kuwait.

The Soviet official will convey Saturday morning a message to H.H. the amir from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev focussing on developments of events in the Gulf region and explaining Moscow's stance toward implementing the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Vorontsov will meet with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi before proceeding to Iran Saturday.

The Soviet official will hold talks this evening with Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin on Arab Gulf developments after which he will address a press conference in the Foreign Ministry's premises.

He was received on arrival by Al-Shahin, Director of the Undersecretary's Office Ahmad al-Fahd, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait and Amir Ramadan from the Protocol Department.

'Arafat Arrives To Meet Vorontsov

LD301230 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 30 Oct (KUNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived this afternoon on his second visit to Kuwait within 2 weeks.

Mr 'Arafat arrived approximately 4 hours behind the Soviet official he is expected to meet with later today.

The PLO chairman told journalists on his arrival that the main aim of his visit is meet with Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, in accordance with a prior agreement.

As for his visit to Moscow, 'Arafat disclosed that he received an invitation to attend the 7 November Great October Socialist Revolution celebrations. He also noted that this invitation is separate from one extended to him for talks with Soviet leaders. A date for the latter talks has not yet been set.

'Arafat commented that the question of Egypt's return to Arab ranks will be one topic discussed at the Arab emergency summit scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November. He had also stated this during his tour of Arab countries. 'Arafat added that some favor raising this issue while others oppose it, and that this matter will be settled at the meeting of Arab leaders.

'Arafat reported there are no new developments in Palestinian-Syrian relations. He said he personally has no plans to discuss a reconciliation during the Amman emergency summit.

He called on the Arab summit to adopt a firm, unified Arab stand to meet the challenges and threats facing all our Arab nation. This is particularly important because of the serious escalation in the Gulf. This escalation has resulted from the constant acts of aggression against and threats to our Arab lands.

'Arafat described his recent tour as important. During these visits, he held talks with Arab brothers and leaders on all current issues, especially the agenda of the Arab summit conference.

KUNA has learned that 'Arafat stopped in Baghdad en route from Tunisia to Kuwait. Upon his arrival in Kuwait, he was welcomed by 'Awni Battash, chief of the local PLO office; the counselor at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry's Department of Protocol; and a number of Palestinian popular union chiefs in Kuwait.

Editorial: USSR Wants Gulf 'Disequilibrium'

JN281609 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 26 Oct 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "The Hour of Truth"]

[Text] Three news items from more than one source surfaced within the same day. However, there is no difference between the significance of each of them.

The first news item stated: The Soviet Union strongly condemned Iran's aggression against Kuwait and reiterated "its total support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of friendly Kuwait."

The second report noted: A well-known British newspaper claims that the Soviet Union agreed in principle to supply Iran with advanced weapons, including Kudi [as published] surface-to-surface missiles.

The third news item reported: During talks with his U.S. counterpart, George Shultz, the Soviet foreign minister agreed to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to occupied Palestine provided they make it—and not the United States or any other state—their place of residence.

This means that the Soviet Union has more than one stand to serve its political and trade interests with the states of the region. It thus supports Iran in its protracted war and opposes Tehran's repeated acts of aggression against Kuwait. It supports the UN Security Council resolution that calls for hostilities to end. However, the USSR also supports Iran in its rejection of this resolution as well as in its attempts to circumvent and bypass this UN document.

The Soviet Union similarly says it will respect obligations toward Iraq called for by the treaty of friendship binding the two states. It additionally seeks to maintain its trade links with and serve its interests in Iran. The USSR is not extremely enthusiastic about achieving a cease-fire and ending the conflict. It uses the card of the U.S. naval presence to reach a rapprochement with Iran, help Tehran end its isolation and encirclement, and escape its impasse. When the Soviet Union calls for withdrawing fleets and for the deployment of an international force in the region, it seeks to relieve pressure on Tehran and simultaneously thwart efforts to implement the UN Security Council resolution.

Due to its proximity to states of the region, the Soviet Union knows better than anyone that expanding the Gulf conflict was and still is one of Iran's pretexts to tempt foreign fleets to come to the region. This is a matter that runs counter to Soviet policies and proposals that call for the withdrawal of fleets and the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in the region. An objective assessment of the Soviet Union's policies and stands

thus makes it imperative that we reexamine contradictions that have converted conflicts and crises in the Arab region into a way of creating profitable trade, whether weapons or Jewish emigrants are involved.

It is high time that Kuwait and other GCC states awaken to the hour of truth which says that interests always come first and that policy, principles, and relations come second. It is also high time that we examine the ground we walk on so that we can distinguish between those who honestly and sincerely support us, and those who exercise rhetoric and employ the terminology of friendship. The latter do this to help them infiltrate us, achieve their objectives, and serve their interests. We must reconsider the situation and adopt policies and stands that help us confront the situation and meet our needs and requirements. We have always said that the security and stability of the Gulf is the responsibility of its states and peoples. What has so far been established and proven is that the Soviet Union does not seek to end the war but instead wants the region to remain in a state of disequilibrium. It desires this so that it can impose hegemony, bargain, and win new friends at the expense of its old ones. These old friends were the first to forge ties of cooperation with it and also supported its presence in the region.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Receives Saddam Husayn Envoy, Note

EA291309 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Supreme Council, has received a letter from Brother Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president, concerning relations between the two brotherly countries and recent Arab developments. This occurred this evening when Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas received Brother Hasan 'Ali al-'Amiri, member of the RCC and personal envoy of President Saddam Husayn.

During their meeting, the brother chairman of the Presidium stressed the necessity of ending the Iraq-Iran war and solving the problems of the two neighboring states peacefully, on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He also stressed that Democratic Yemen was eager to make the upcoming extraordinary Arab summit a success, to exert every effort to restore Arab unity due to the imminent dangers facing the Arab nation, and to unite the Arab stand on issues to be disussed at the summit.

The meeting was attended by Brother Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of interior; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; and Brother Natiq 'Abd al-Hamid Tawfiq, Iraq's ambassador to Aden.

Qatar

Crown Prince, Iranian Envoy View Bilateral Ties

LD291758 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Qatar Mohammed Baqir Sakha'i met Qatar's Crown Prince and Minister of Defence Shaykh Hamad bin Khalifah Al Thani in Doha Thursday, and discussed with him bilateral ties as well as issues of mutual interest.

Expressing pleasure over the expanding relations between the two countries, Shaykh Hamad said that Qatar-Islamic Republic of Iran ties are based on historical relations, and Islam and being neighbours make the two countries closer.

Shaykh Hamad pointed to the two sides' interests in expanding relations especially in the economic fields, and hoped that peace will be restored in the region and problems solved.

In response, Sakha'i said these powers would sooner or later leave the region and "we should live together."

During the meeting, Sakha'i also discussed the problems of Iranians residing in Qatar with Shaykh Hamad who promised to look into the matter.

Saudi Arabia

Shultz Mideast Visit 'Another American Failure'

PM281639 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English 20 Oct 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Another Failure"]

[Text] George Shultz's visit to "Palestine" with its negative results is another American failure in the Mid-east and failure will it achieve unless the U.S. Government shows a little rational attitude about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It seems that Shultz is fighting a losing battle. It was predicted before his visit that Zionists will not be able to negotiate peace at an international conference. What was not predicted and expected was that the Palestinians would boycott the meeting.

This visit simplifies the fact that President Reagan's greatest concern now is achieving a victorious settlement in the Mid-east before he leaves the White House, particularly after Iran-Contragate scandal which had sharply dropped his credibility among American people and Mid-east governments. The Shultz visit did not produce any new proposals: it was in a way or another an attempt to examine positions of both sides of the conflict. Shultz's reaction after the Palestinian boycott reflects his attitude about them. He said: "They have missed something, it is sort of contradictory for them to

say they need to be heard but then when [as published] are offered a chance, not to take advantage of it." Shultz did not specify which advantage he was referring to, and what kind of advantage could Palestinians expect from him as long as the American Government did not give the PLO any recognition. What advantage to the Palestinians lies under such a visit or such a man who was behind closing the PLO Information Office in Washington? The Palestinians did miss nothing; they may miss something when they attend the meeting, because they already know what kind of proposal he carries for them. Shultz also said "that only reminds us that peace has enemies." Apparently, he was referring to the Palestinian boycott, but it seems that he did not issue such statement when Shamir opposed the international peace conference. Apparently, Shultz started laying his failure on the Palestinians because he cannot lay that on his friends—the Israelis—who seem to be very pleased with Shultz who had received an honorary doctorate from the Weizmann Institute.

With a closer look at the reasons that lie behind the Palestinian reaction [as published] for refusing to attend the meeting, we can definitely say that they did the right thing. They are aware of the constant blind American support to the Israelis, the constant American attempts of accusing them of terrorism, finally closing the PLO Information Office in Washington. Shultz thinks that there is another way to achieve his goals by meeting King Husayn, who is considered to be involved in the peace process. But Shultz has to remember that King Husayn cannot under any circumstances negotiate any peace without the Palestinians, simply because Palestinians inside the West Bank and other occupied territories do not want anyone to negotiate peace on their behalf.

The other way is President Husni Mubarak. But there, too, Shultz faces other types of difficulties. He and the U.S. Administration have to clearly understand that they are wasting their time and effort as long as they insist on being both the judge and the enemy at the same time. It is quite clear that the U.S. attitude about the Palestinians will stay as it is which means, no further step in the direction of the Mid-east peace. Shultz presented a $10,000 scholarship to Tel Aviv University for business studies, while thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank sleep in the streets.

Yemen Arab Republic

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives With Message for Salih

JN281822 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Brother Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister of fraternal Iraq, arrived in Sanaa at 1730 today. Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; the deputy prime ministers; a number of ministers and civilian and military officials; Iraq's ambassador to Sanaa; the Iraqi Embassy staff; and a representative of presidential protocol met him at Sanaa International Airport.

In a statement to SABA, Ramadan noted he is bringing a message from his president, Brother Saddam Husayn, to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

He added: Our visit comes within the continuous and fraternal talks between the two sister countries on all issues that affect our commoa interests and our Arab nations, especially the Iraq-Iran war. What is required is a strong, united Arab stand, particularly since we will hold an emergency Arab summit in only a few days.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN282001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Sanaa, 28 Oct (INA)—'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, YAR prime minister, met this evening with Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister. They discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them.

In an address during the meeting, the deputy prime minister declared that the Iraqi Armed Forces are prepared to defend Iraq's sovereignty. He also noted their determination to inflict the heaviest losses on the aggressor Iranian forces and their economic facilities. Ramadan, in discussing the Amman summit scheduled for 8 November, stressed how important it is for this conference to adopt resolutions reaffirming the Arab identity and a genuine pan-Arab affiliation. He additionally stressed the need for resolutions that sort out the defeatist stands of some Arab regimes. These regimes support the aggressor Zionist Iranians to help them pursue their attacks against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The YAR prime minister reiterated his country's firm and complete solidarity with Iraq, which is defending its sovereignty and independence against Iran's aggression. He stated the YAR supports Iraq's efforts to create a positive atmosphere that will contribute to enhancing the unified Arab stand against enemies of the the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary; members of the delegation accompanying the Iraqi first deputy prime minister; and Iraq's ambassador to Sanaa.

Further on Visit by USSR's Yuliy Vorontsov

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN291310 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, today. Vorontsov conveyed to the president a verbal message from Mikhail Gorbachev.

Their talks dealt with the firm relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between the USSR and Iraq in all fields, the current situation in the region, and the UN Security Council deliberations to implement Resolution 598.

The president stressed Iraq's support for the resolution and its readiness to implement it with good intentions, emphasizing Iraq's rejection of any attempt to misinterpret the resolution or change its major contents, which are aimed at achieving lasting and comprehensive peace. The president also emphasized that the international community, particularly the UN Security Council permanent members, should be aware of the Iranian maneuvers which seek to disrupt the objective of peace and to continue the war and aggression against Iraq and the region's states.

Attending the meeting were Tariq 'Aziz deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; the Iraqi ambasador in Moscow; Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration of the USSR Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Official Talks Resumed

JN291907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1854 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 29 oct (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the USSR resumed at the Foreign Ministry here today. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Iraqi side to the talks and Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister, led the Soviet side.

Attending the talks were the Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the International Organizations and Conferences Department of the Foreign Ministry; Polyakov, chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration of the USSR Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

The Soviet official arrived here yesterday on a visit to Iraq that is scheduled to last several days.

'Verbal Message' Presented

JN301203 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1024 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Yuliy Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, has stated that his country and Iraq have a common objective; namely, the necessity of finding a solution for the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible. In a statement to the newspaper *Al-Thawrah* issued here today, Vorontsov said that his visit to Iraq is part of the Soviet Union's efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Iran war. He added that the Soviet Union discussed the war and the need to stop it during Shultz' recent visit to Moscow. He noted that his country will continue this discussion during the upcoming and closed meeting between Mr Gorbachev and President Reagan.

Vorontsov expressed extreme satisfaction with his audience with President Saddam Husayn. He said: His excellency received me as an envoy of the CPSU general secretary, and I conveyed to him a verbal message from Mr Gorbachev. Vorontsov added: I briefed President Saddam Husayn on the U.S.-Soviet talks held in Moscow during Shultz' visit.

He noted that his talks with President Saddam Husayn had included a discussion of the region's developments in addition to the circumstances surrounding the Iraq-Iran war and ways to end it, especially through implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598 issued on 20 July. Vorontsov expressed the hope that the UN will play a positive and important role by using all its resources and the means at its disposal to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Vorontsov described his talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, as comprehensive, deep, and detailed. He said that they had dealt with the overall problems in the region, as well as issues of mutual interest, like the Iraq-Iran war.

On the development of relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union, Vorontsov noted that the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries is one of the profound factors demonstrating the deep friendship between our two lands. He said that the treaty will be the center of our attention and the main factor in our relations. He added that this treaty is the foundation of the development of Iraq-USSR relations in all areas.

Official Talks Begin With GDR in Baghdad

JN281525 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Oct (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the GDR began here today. During the first round of talks, discussion dealt with the projects which GDR companies are implementing in Iraq in the transportation and commnications fields.

The Iraqi Transportation and Communications Ministry under secretary chaired the Iraqi side at the talks, while the GDR State Planning Commission deputy chairman chaired his country's delegation. The deputy chairman of the GDR State Planning Commission arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a technical delegation on a visit to Iraq that is scheduled to last several days.

Libya To Participate in International Fair

JN291628 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 Oct (WAKH)—It was mentioned here today that Libya has decided to participate in this year's Baghdad International Fair, which is scheduled to begin next Sunday. The fair will last 2 weeks.

Libya's participation comes following an absence of more than 6 years and in implementation of the two countries' decision to normalize their relations. This decision was made during the talks which Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, held in Baghdad early last month.

Idris 'Umar al-Shahbawi, director of the Libyan pavilion who arrived in Baghdad 2 days ago, expressed his happiness at participating in the fair. He said: Our participation this year comes to affirm that Iraq is experiencing progress and economic development.

Libya's participation in the fair coincides with the preparation under way to reopen the Libyan Embassy in Baghdad following an estrangement which has lasted many years.

Diplomatic sources here told WAKH that a Libyan diplomatic mission has been in Baghdad for some time for this purpose and that the Iraqi authorities had invited Libyan officials to participate in the Babylon Festival, which ended on 22 October, as part of the Iraqi plan to develop relations with Libya. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique 2,891

JN291744 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,891 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 29 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are bravely confronting the aggressors to defend the people and the achievements of their glorious revolution. They inflicted further losses on the Zionist Khomeyniites. The following is a roundup of combat activities for last night and today:

1. One of our formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah dealt effective artillery and mortar blows to enemy concentrations. Sixteen scoundrels were killed; a vehicle, two infantry positions, and two observation posts were destroyed; and a boat was burned. The enemy failed to evacuate its dead due to intensive fire from our righteous soldiers. Elsewhere in the same sector, our units destroyed five vehicles, two infantry positions, a machinegun emplacement, and two observation posts and killed three soldiers.

2. Five infantry positions, a double-barreled machinegun, and an observation post were destroyed; two ammunition dumps were blown up; and an enemy soldier was killed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Two infantry positions and a machinegun emplacement were destroyed and their personnel killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Six enemy soldiers were killed and several others were wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. An ammunition dump was blown up and an infantry position and two observation posts were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. Several Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward positions. They were evacuated safely to rear lines.

7. The criminal Zionist Iranian regime continued to shell residential areas in the valiant city of Basra and the Al-Zubayr District, thus committing new crimes against the peaceful citizens. As a result of the long-range artillery shelling by the tyrant clique last night and today, several citizens were martyred, most of them women and children, and several others were wounded, including women and children.

Let the world public acquaint itself with the heinous actions of this regime, which insists on continuing war and attacks on women and children. May God have mercy on our martyrs. Swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 Oct 1987

'Savage' Shelling Kills 13

JN291737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Basra, Southern Iraq, 29 Oct (INA)—The INA correspondent in Basra, southern Iraq, reports that the Iranian shelling of purely residential areas in the center of Basra and the district of Zubayr was savage.

The correspondent says that the shells fired continuously throughout the day by the Iranian regime's long-range artillery fell on residential areas, setting some homes on fire, destroying others, and damaging private property.

Earlier today, a military spokesman stated that enemy shelling had resulted in the martyring of 13 civilians, including 6 children, the wounding of 46 citizens, including 16 children and 9 women, and the destruction of a number of houses.

Missile Hits Residential Area

JN300749 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0721 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 30 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0100 today [2200 GMT on 29 October], the criminal Iranian regime fired a missile on Baghdad. This is one of the missiles provided by the enemies of the Arab nation. The missile fell on a residential quarter. It martyred several citizens, wounded others, and destroyed and damaged several civilian houses.

While we ask Almighty God to have mercy on our martyrs and wish our wounded swift recovery, we proclaim these crimes to international public opinion so that the evil nature of this regime may be known.

Iraq accepts the UN Security Council resolution and welcomes positive efforts to establish peace. At the same time, the Iranian regime not only rejects this resolution but insists on pursuing its aggression with all baseness against Iraq's borders. This regime also fires its missiles and artillery on innocent civilians, killing women and children.

Iraq will certainly not let these crimes pass without severe punishment at any time it sees fit. Shame and ignominy on the cowardly Iranian rulers.

[Dated] 30 October 1987

Fighting in North Denied

JN301127 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Oct (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims of fighting in the northern Iraqi areas of Shaykhan, Qarah Dagh, Halabjah, and Iski [name as received].

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA today that these reports are groundless and are part of the series of lies by the Iranian regime to deceive its people and boost the low morale of its forces. The spokesman challenged the Iranian regime to produce a shred of evidence to prove its claims.

Rabin Implicates Saudis in Gaza Terrorism Acts

TA291450 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
29 Oct 87 p A4

[Report by Shmu'el Segev]

[Excerpts] The defense minister yesterday expressed the hope that the United States will meet the written commitments it gave to Israel and will not cut its military aid as a result of the stock market crash. [passage omitted]

"When Israel undertakes to keep certain promises it does, and we hope that the United States too will honor its promises....As a result, a voluntary return of the U.S. military aid is out of the question; nor has the United States appealed to us on this matter. It is very characteristic for Israel to raise problems that have not come up at all," Yitzhaq Rabin said.

The defense minister disclosed that the acts of terror perpetrated by the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip are directed from Jordan and financed by Saudi Arabia. He explained that in contrast with the Lebanese Hizballah organization, which is a Shi'ite Muslim group financed by Iran, the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip is a Sunni Muslim organization that cooperates with the PLO. This is the first time that Saudi Arabia has been associated with terror activity in the territories or within the Green Line boundaries.

The defense minister denied a report published in *The New York Times* stating that Israel has changed its policy regarding Iran and is now inclined to support Iraq. He said that the Khomeyni regime is indeed hostile to Israel, but since the creation of the state Israel has had very good relations with Iran which should not be dismissed.

Rabin explained that the Iran-Iraq war has had two positive results from Israel's point of view. Contrary to the situation that prevailed during the Yom Kippur War, Syria today cannot rely on Iraqi military aid. Rabin said that Iraqi dependence on the logistics services Jordan extends to it allowed King Husayn greater maneuverability with regard to his relations with Israel. Rabin expressed doubt as to whether this maneuverability will be kept if and when the war in the Persian Gulf ends. Accordingly, Rabin expressed his opinion that now is the time to initiate peace moves with Jordan. [passage omitted]

Defense Sources Clarify Rabin Remarks on Iran

TA291137 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Defense Ministry sources say that in the wake of an AFP report, Israeli and foreign press today published remarks by Defense Minister Rabin that had not been said at all. Their publication is totally unfounded.

Here is an accurate account of the remarks made by the defense minister on relations with Iran. He was speaking during a meeting in Jerusalem with the Association of Foreign Journalists:

Iran today is Israel's bitter enemy from the viewpoint of its general outlook. In its ideology, policy, and aid to the Hizballah, Iran adheres to radical, fundamentalist Islamic positions. Nevertheless, Rabin said, when I served as an ambassador in Washington, when I was a prime minister and a minister, when I visited the United States, everybody in the administration and media there told me that to resolve a conflict we should talk with the enemy. Therefore, any attempt on my part to underrate the hatred and policy of Iran against Israel would be incorrect. I believe that as long as Khomeyni is in power there will be no change.

At the same time, allow me to say that during 28 out of Israel's 39 years of existence, Iran was a friend of this country. In 1973, when an energy crisis plagued the entire world, Israel was not short of oil since oil continued to flow here from Iran. If this could be the case for 28 years, when Israel was small, not so strong and without links of peace with the largest Arab country, Egypt, why can't this situation exist again, when this idea of insane, Islamic Shi'ite fundamentalism passes away?

The above, then, is an accurate account of the remarks made by the defense minister yesterday.

Beilin Comments on Ties With Iran, U.S. Aid

TA291630 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Telephone interview with Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] The defense minister's remarks were mangled in publications that have appeared today. These have already been corrected. The defense minister said that Iran today is Israel's bitter enemy. What Rabin said about Iran as Israel's friend was referring to other times. For 28 of the 39 years of Israel's existence, Iran was a friend. The defense minister also spoke about opportunities in the future, saying that friendship may return at some time. We approached Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's political director general, in the wake of the remarks about Israeli-Iranian relations then, now, and in the future.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Ro'e] We are returning to the remarks made by the defense minister that were later corrected, and in fact explained, technically speaking, on Iran and its relations with Israel. In the wake of those remarks, we wanted to hear your evaluation of the relations between Israel and Iran.

[Beilin] Well, it is true that in the past there were good relations between Israel and Iran, but this is no longer true. Khomeyni's Iran is an enemy of Israel; an ideological enemy and also a genuine enemy. The danger embodied in Iranian fundamentalism is not theoretical for us, because the only success achieved in the export of the Iranian revolution may have been in Lebanon, on our border. The Hizballah is a constant reminder of what such a success could bring. From this aspect, Iran is undoubtedly one of Israel's greatest enemies.

[Savir] But where does Israel stand in terms of the war between Iran and Iraq?

[Beilin] I do not think we need to establish a pro-Iranian or pro-Iraqi policy in Israel...

[Savir, interrupting] Perhaps we have a certain attitude toward them.

[Beilin] If you are asking me what is actually our genuine interest, I would say that our genuine interest is for this insane war between Iran and Iraq to end as soon as possible without either of them winning or losing.

[Ro'e] Other voices have quite often been heard from Jerusalem.

[Beilin] Well, Jerusalem is a big and democratic city. There is no Cabinet decision or anything like it concerning our position on that war, but in my view that is Israel's genuine interest. We would not like to see a protracted war that would actually reinforce both sides and make them more experienced and sophisticated, so that in the end their weapons could be used on us at a later stage. So we have no interest in a protracted war between the two sides, apart from the humanitarian aspect. A victory by Iraq would be a victory for a historical enemy of Israel's and an Iranian victory would be one by a new enemy.

[Savir] Dr Beilin, today we are receiving the U.S. foreign aid check, the full amount. Do you believe that these sums will indeed remain the full sum, or will Israel be forced to return some in the longer term?

[Beilin] I very much hope that these sums will remain fully in our possession. That is in accordance with the understanding between the two countries, according to our needs. We are in a situation of an ongoing reduction in budgets. We have had a large reduction in the defense budget, a cut that occurred 2 years ago and is actually continuing. It was very difficult to give up some of that aid.

[Savir] It will undoubtedly also be difficult for the Americans to hand over the entire sum of the aid in the cutting-back or slump that they are apparently entering.

[Beilin] I do not know. As of now we have not been asked to do anything. We have received the complete check and I think it would be a mistake if we were the ones to anticipate cuts and make proposals in that context.

[Ro'e] You said let us hope. Does that also mean that you believe it?

[Beilin] I hope, and I also believe it.

King Meets Omani, Kuwaiti, Turkish Officials

JN271607 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received Sayf ibn Hamad, head of Oman's Royal Court, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Omani official delivered to his majesty a letter from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman on the need to reach a united Arab stand to confront the perils which engulf the Arab nation.

The letter dealt with bilateral relations. The Omani official said that His Majesty Sultan Qabus is anxious to meet with His Majesty King Husayn during the summit conference to consult and coordinate with his majesty in an effort to serve the supreme Arab interest.

His Majesty King Husayn also received Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Kuwaiti minister delivered a letter to his majesty from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on the preparations being made for the Arab summit.

His Majesty King Husayn asked the Kuwaiti minister to inform his highness the Kuwaiti amir that Jordan supports fraternal Kuwait in its confrontation of the Iranian aggressions against its territory and territorial waters.

His Majesty King Husayn also received Turgut Olman, envoy from his excellency the Turkish President Kenan Evren, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The Turkish envoy delivered to his majesty a letter from President Evren on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Cypriot Labor Minister Arrives in Amman

JN282032 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—Andreas Mousiouttas, Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou's envoy and labor and social insurance minister, arrived in Amman this evening on a 3-day official visit to Jordan during which he will convey a message from his excellency President Spiros Kiprianou to His Majesty King Husayn.

Mousiouttas paid tribute to His Majesty King Husayn's leadership and also to his role in advancing regional peace efforts. In a press statement to a PETRA-JNA correspondent upon arrival, he reported that the people and Government of Cyprus are following with great interest and high esteem His Majesty King Husayn's distinguished and persistent efforts to bring about a just and lasting solution to the Middle East conflict.

He added that his majesty's efforts had resulted in winning greater support from the majority of the world's states, including the Republic of Cyprus, for the idea of convening an international Middle East peace conference. He noted that his country is bound to the Arab world through strong ties, that it experiences the same sufferings of the Arab people, and that it strongly condemns the Israeli aggressions against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

He said that Israel's rejection of UN resolutions, its rejection of holding an international conference, and its pursuit of expansionist policies constitute the principal obstacle to bringing about peace in the region.

The visiting Cypriot minister was welcomed at the airport by Eng Khalid al-Haj Hasan, labor and social development minister, and the honorary Cypriot consul to Jordan.

UK Position on Palestine 'Balanced and Fair'

JN280946 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 29 Oct 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "British Principles Concerning the Region's Issues"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's interview with *Al-Dustur* on the eve of his trip to the Middle East is of special significance as it gives a full and precise presentation of the bases for the British position on all of the issues concerning the peoples of the region. By these we mean the Palestinian question and the Iraq-Iran war.

With regard to the Palestinian question, the British foreign secretary reaffirmed his government's position on various aspects of this question in accordance with the policy which it has pursued since the beginning of this decade. The secretary presented his government's principles concerning this question and the solutions which it considers appropriate as a way out of this intractable crisis.

Sir Geoffrey Howe affirmed that the British position concerning the Palestinian question is "clear, frank, and unchangeable." This is especially true since it has been agreed upon with Britain's European partners and is based on principles contained in the Venice Declaration of 1980. These principles essentially provide for supporting the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the right of all states in the region to live in peace and within secure boundaries.

Britain supports the efforts being made to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, believing that such a conference provides the appropriate means to escape this serious crisis and the continuous deadlock.

As for the Iraq-Iran war, which has entered a serious phase following the stumbling of the UN secretary general's mission, its continuation constitutes a threat to all non-belligerent countries of the region. Its solution is only possible through the immediate implementation of

UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire and the withdrawal of the forces of the two belligerents to their internationally recognized borders.

The position expressed by Sir Geoffrey Howe on the Palestinian question and the Gulf war while on his way to the region is important, because it is a balanced and fair stance which represents a growing international unanimity. Britain shares the view of the EC countries and other East-West nations.

These countries see what Israel and the United States cannot see and want the opposite of what these two countries want. They desire an end to bloodshed, wars, and tensions and the achievement of just, comprehensive, and honorable peace for all parties.

Armenian Secret Army Claims Attack on French
NC292011 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] A spokesman for the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia has declared that this organization was responsible for today's attack on three French soldiers in Al-Dawrah [East Beirut]. The spokesman said the operation was designed to bring pressure to bear on the French Government to make it release some members of the organization who are being held in French prisons.

Responsibility Denied
NC301538 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Beirut, Oct 30 (AFP)—A source close to the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) denied Friday that it was responsible for an attack in which two French gendarmes were killed in the Christian sector of the city. The source dismissed an alleged claim made on behalf of ASALA made on Thursday night.

An anonymous caller claiming to represent ASALA had telephoned the Sawt al-Haq (Voice of Truth) radio station late Thursday and said that the organisation was behind the attack earlier that day.

ASALA claims of responsibility are normally delivered in typed communiques, in Arabic or French, to international news agencies in Beirut or other capitals.

Two French Embassy guards were shot dead and a third one seriously injured in the attack by two unidentified assailants in a suburban shopping area of Christian East Beirut.

In a communique released in February 1987, ASALA threatened to launch attacks in France if Armenian and Arab militants being held in France were not released.

Varoujan Garbidjian, the head of the ASALA, was sentenced to life imprisonment for a July 1983 attack at Orly Airport, near Paris, in which eight people were killed and 60 injured.

Assassination Plot Against Murphy Revealed
PM301529 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 30 Oct 87 p 8

[Unattributed report: "Murphy Escapes Certain Assassination"]

[Text] U.S. and Lebanese security authorities have received information that a well-conceived plot had been hatched for the assassination of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy while he was in Lebanon. The plan was to be carried out as he crossed between Beirut's eastern and western sectors. Gunmen belonging to groups opposed to the United States and its policies had laid ambushes and set up mobile barriers for the implementation of their assassination plan and the news of the assassination was to be announced moments after implementation. Information-level preparations were made for that purpose at the highest level.

When the U.S. security organs accompanying him learned of the plan they advised the cancellation of Murphy's visit to [Acting] Prime Minister al-Huss but Murphy insisted on meeting with the acting prime minister lest his visit be seen as one-sided.

Therefore the schedule of his two visits was reversed and instead of visiting President al-Jumayyil first and then Al-Huss as originally planned, he went to the prime minister's office first and then visited the president, leaving the plotters dumbfounded.

The U.S. official had visited Damascus before Beirut and met with [Vice President] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and [Foreign Minister] al-Shar'. His visit was complementary to that of his boss, Shultz, who went to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Israel. Shultz also met with King Husayn in London. It is known that Shultz' tour was, by his own admission, a failure.

Israeli Air Raid on Al-Nabitiyah Area Reported
NC301225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Israeli enemy planes launched a raid on the villages of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Mazra'at al-Hamra' in the Al-Nabatiyah District this morning. Meanwhile, according to security reports from the South, Israeli forces clashed with gunmen in the two villages. The Israeli enemy forces also destroyed four houses, which Israel says, were used for launching Katyushas on the Galilee in June and August.

Iran Providing Students Grants, Military Training
NC291941 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Hizballah today announced that Iran has given financial aid to 70,000 Muslim Lebanese students during this academic year. According to a Hizballah source, the grants cover tuition fees and the cost of books for some 40,000 students; 30,000 more receive smaller grants.

An official at a student office catering to the needs of Muslim fundamentalists said his office is interested in providing assistance to students abiding by the tenets of Islam and to women who wear the veil. In addition to financial assistance, the office is organizing military training courses for students. One such course was held earlier this year in Al-Biqa' and was organized by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

PSP's Junblatt Holds News Conference 29 Oct

NC291522 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] At the beginning of his news conference in Al-Mukhtarah today, PSP [Progressive Socialist Party] leader Walid Junblatt said: On 1 May we opposed the allocation of 1.7 billion pounds to the Army. We opposed it again on the 40th day after the assassination of the great national leader Rashid Karami. The things that we warned against on those occasions have come to pass in recent days. Billions are being squandered by the Chamber of Deputies—which does not represent the people—on unproductive utilities. Billions are being squandered and the starving people are paying the price.

I would like to tell Antoine Bisharah [president of the Trade Union Federation] that we have no objection to an indefinite strike, but we ask Bisharah and the Trade Union Federation to identify the party responsible for the fact that the people are starving, for the enormous expenditures, for the devaluation of the Lebanese pound, and for the systematic robberies carried out by Amin al-Jumayyil and his clique.

Junblatt went on to say: To go on indefinite strike without identifying the party responsible and against an unspecified target would be of no avail. Let Antoine Bisharah and the Trade Union Federation ask [Chamber Speaker] Husayn al-Husayni and Amin al-Jumayyil to stop squandering money on the Army and on the Council for Development and Reconstruction, which is run by brokers such as Salah Abu Ra'd and Karim Nahra. They spent some 50 million pounds ostensibly on evacuees, but no evacuee has benefited from this. Only Lebanese Forces suspect George 'Adwan benefited from this money.

At his news conference, Walid Junblatt touched on a series of financial scandals involving social security funds, the money spent on Amin al-Jumayyil's visits abroad, and the huge sums allocated to certain Lebanese embassies.

Walid Junblatt reiterated his view that it is preposterous to think of working out a national Arab democratic political solution with the Phalangist Party and with an isolationist Christian trend which seeks to separate the Christians from the Arab world, cut Lebanon off from the Arab world, and become affiliated with Israel and U.S. circles.

Asked about the Arab summit conference, Junblatt replied: I call on the Arab kings, presidents, and the custodian of the two holy mosques to ask Amin al-Jumayyil: Who killed Rashid Karami? Who starved the Lebanese people? And who carried out the Sabra and Shatila massacres?

In response to another question about sending volunteers to Libya, Junblatt said: I sent volunteers to defend the Libyan revolution, not to fight against the African or Chadian people.

Al-Jumayyil Comments on Economic, Social Crises

NC290802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has reportedly told a delegation of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture that the present situation in the country does not justify the current deterioration in the value of Lebanese currency. Measures and procedures must be implemented to bring the chaotic monetary situation under control. This should be undertaken by reliable and trustworthy authorities. There is a more important and delicate factor that requires attention: the political situation. The economic crisis is a link in the plot being hatched against Lebanon. The plotters are trying to secure, through economic measures, what they could not secure by political and military means.

He also told the delegation that he is ready to support any solution that could achieve Lebanese unity under a responsible government. By acting on the basis of national responsibility, such a government could deal with the economic crisis and ensure the achievement of effective solutions. He warned against making the present economic and social crisis a prelude to a bigger national problem through proposals that would lead to partition. Such proposals can never be accepted.

My wager, he said, has always been and will remain on Lebanon's unity and Arabism and its cooperation with all its fraternal Arab states to find solutions. My position in this regard is firm and unchangeable, despite attempts to distort the facts.

The president suggested that the economic crisis could be one of the methods being used to divert our attention from work to achieve Lebanon's unity and Arabism. But, he said, we will spare no effort to achieve whatever can ensure Lebanon's sovereignty, stability, and integrity. I will continue my efforts on the international and regional levels to achieve these goals.

The president maintained that it is important at this stage to revive the departments actually responsible for dealing with the economic situation so they can draw up the necessary controls and confront the parties present in all parts of Lebanon that are undermining the state's authority, usurping its resources, and imposing taxes and fees on consumer and other goods. By engaging in such practices, these parties are hindering the achievement of any possible economic and social solution.

President al-Jumayyil said that specialized working teams are continuing to prepare ideas and proposals that could help ease the pressing crisis. He said he will focus the major part of his attention at the Arab summit in Amman, as he did during his foreign trips, on securing assistance to Lebanon.

Further on Al-Asad Meeting With Hedi Mabrouk
JN290845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0815 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk at 0930 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus also attended the meeting.

Mabrouk conveyed a message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to his excellency the president. Talks dealt with the situation in the Arab world and other outstanding issues. They also discussed cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries.

Mabrouk Praises Talks, Departs
JN281819 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk left Damascus this afternoon concluding a visit to our country during which he conveyed a verbal message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

Mabrouk was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; 'Abd al-Hasib al-Ustuwani, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus; and the Tunisian Embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent prior to leaving Damascus, Mabrouk expressed his appreciation for the Syrian Government and people under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. He added that President Hafiz al-Asad had asked him to convey a verbal message to President Habib Bourguiba on the current Arab situation.

Mabrouk also praised the results of the talks he held with Syrian officials within the framework of consultations and the exchange of opinions between the two fraternal countries for the sake of strengthening their relations and serving joint Arab action vis-a-vis the fateful challenges facing the Arab nation.

USSR's Vasilyev Reviews Bilateral Cooperation
JN281712 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—Nikolay Vasilyev, Soviet minister of land reclamation and water resources, who is currently visiting Syria, praised the existing and developing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR in all fields. At a press conference today, he said: Syrian-Soviet cooperation covers the basic branches of Syria's national economy and has prepared qualified technical cadres to supervise work in Syria.

The Soviet minister affirmed that the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between Syria and the USSR in 1980 gave multifacited features to mutual cooperation. Vasilyev added that the visit to the USSR by President Hafiz al-Asad in April and his talks with Mikhail Gorbachev provided new momentum to developing this cooperation.

The Soviet official announced that a new agreement was recently signed on exploring for and recovering raw materials which contain phosphorus in Syria. He also discussed other areas of Syrian-Soviet cooperation, including irrigation, land reclamation, and establishing dams, networks, and canals in Syria, particularly the Euphrates Dam and the 16 October Dam.

Commenting on the joint Soviet-Syrian spaceflight, the Soviet minister said: Each flight has its own results. The results of this flight are still being studied by scientists and specialists. Syrian astronaut Muhammad Faris is participating in these studies.

Vasilyev affirmed that among the results of the high-level development in the economic field is the achievement of new works in developing Syria's national economy and the reinforcement of the strategic line of the two countries' leadership.

Egypt in Arab League 'Will Not Benefit' Arabs
JN280731 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0435 GMT 28 Oct 87

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Egypt and the Emergency Summit," the *Al-Ba'th* newspaper says: With the extraordinary Arab summit drawing closer, some voices are calling for returning Egypt as it is, shackled with the overt and covert Camp David accords, to the Arab League. This call comes at a time when all people inside and outside the Arab homeland realize that the Arab nation's problems are the result of the Camp David accords.

These accords not only isolated Arab Egypt from the Arab environment, but also turned it into a support for the forces that are hostile to the Arab nation. Although we do not want to go into details to explain the catastrophes the Camp David accords brought to the Arab nation, it is useful to reiterate the most serious of these catastrophes:

The tragic situation in Lebanon since 1975 and the fierce war between Iraq and Iran—a war which Saddam Husayn has waged on behalf of the United States. The United States began to reap the fruit of this war, and the world's progressive and liberation forces have realized that the Arabs are the only losers in this conflict.

The paper adds: The restoration of Egypt as it is now to the Arab fold will not benefit the Arabs. However, its restoration is in the interest of the enemies of the Arabs, particularly the Zionist entity. This is why we in Syria say that the restoration of Egypt as it is means accepting the fait accompli—accepting the Zionist occupation of Arab territories. This also means that the Arabs have fully realized their inability to confront their historic enemy and restore their pan-Arab rights and dignity.

The paper stresses: We in Syria are the first to welcome Egypt's return to the Arab fold. We are very glad to see that Egypt has taken on its pioneer pan-Arab role. However, this should be achieved under the condition that Egypt return to the line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy, where it is supposed to be, and not in line with the Camp David accords.

We also believe that the restoration of Egypt as it is now to the Arab fold means planting a new mine in the Arab stand. This will be exploited in favor of the Zionist enemy and the United States.

The paper adds: The upcoming emergency Arab summit is extremely important in light of the bad circumstances in the Arab homeland. We are suffering from a situation that could have brought about a comprehensive state of despair had Syria and other Arab forces not taken some national and pan-Arab stands against the reactionary course of the United States and its allies in the region.

Concluding, the paper says: We believe that most of the Arab leaders know full well that the Iraq-Iran war, which was the result of a large international conspiracy, coincides with the Camp David accords. These leaders realize that the United States, through the Iraqi regime, ignited this dirty war and seeks to spread it throughout the entire region. No sooner had this regime signed the Baghdad summit resolution against the Camp David regime in Egypt than it began to violate it.

We reiterate that the Gulf war is the result of the Camp David accords. If the Arabs want to study and discuss this issue, they must go back to its origin.

Afghanistan

PDPA Politburo Approves New Ministries 29 Oct

LD291920 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] A regular session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo took place today to examine the question of creating ministries of tribal affairs and nationalities affairs from the present Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs. Those attending pointed out that the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee extraordinary plenum of December 1986 and the plenum of May 1987, as well as the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation, have opened up new horizons in the DRA for ending the bloodshed and fratricidal war being waged by the imperialist forces and reactionaries of the region, for bringing about a stable situation, and for restoring nationwide peace in the DRA. This requires that all nationalities, tribes, and clans in the country actively participate in the sociopolitical and national life of the nation and in the process of securing democratic rights for the people.

The DRA Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs by itself is not able to carry out the duties and demands made by the extraordinary plenum of December 1986 and plenum of May 1987 in the area of nationalities, tribes and clans as demanded by the policy of national reconciliation.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo therefore decided to create a Ministry of Tribal and Border Affairs and a Ministry of Nationalities Affairs.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo also examined the question of reconstructing the system of political training for members of the PDPA and social organizations under the circumstances of national reconciliation. The Politburo pointed out that major changes have occurred in the life of the people of Afghanistan. The policy of national reconciliation announced by the PDPA is gaining strength. Resolving new issues, which are complicated and historic in scale, demands that the party's political and training work be accelerated and intensified according to the decisions and resolutions of the nationwide PDPA conference.

The party believes that the objectives of national reconciliation require the creation of firm ideological pillars. The profound perception of these facts—in other words, the need for national reconciliation, dynamism, and the acceleration of this process under a multiparty system and organs of a coalition administration—provides the possibility for party members and non-party persons to consolidate a powerful belief in the rightousness of the selected path and to foil the dirty enemy propaganda.

The Politburo approved specific measures concerning the reconstruction of the system of political training by PDPA members. It also approved a provision on the content and organization of party training for PDPA members.

The PDPA Central Committee discussed practical measures to promote subsequent work with the Hazara nationality.

In assessing the importance of the first nationwide assembly of the Hazara nationality and in endorsing the measures adopted in this direction, the Politburo instructed the relevant organs to take specific practical measures in order to promote subsequent work with the Hazara nationality.

The Politburo heard and approved a report by Comrade 'Abdul Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA foreign minister, concerning the fourth stage of the seventh round of Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan.

It also heard and approved a report by him about a friendly visit by a DRA delegation to Austria and Yugoslavia.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo heard and approved a report by Comrade Niyaz Muhammad Muhmand, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, about the participation of a PDPA Central Committee delegation in a seminar sponsored by the *October and the Contemporary World* journal in Damascus.

The Politburo heard a report by Comrade Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, about the participation of the DRA party and Government delegation in the ceremony marking the 13th anniversary of the Ethiopian revolution and the creation of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It approved the activity of this delegation.

It also heard a report by him about the results of the visit of a PDPA delegation to the Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of Poland, a visit it regarded as positive.

In addition, the PDPA Central Committee Politburo considered a number of domestic and international issues.

Najibullah Chairs Revolutionary Council Meeting

LD292324 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] A regular session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium was held this morning under the chairmanship of Comrade Najibullah, general secretary

of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, at Gol-khana Palace, the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

In order to deepen and develop the process of national reconciliation, ensure a nationwide and lasting peace in the country, prevent war and fratricide, and prepare the ground for the democratization of the country's economic, political, and social life, the Revolutionary Council Presidium approved, after thorough discussion and assessment, a law on ways to plan the activities of a grand assembly to approve the constitution and to elect the country's president.

According to this law, which has been approved in six articles, the grand assembly will be held at the end of November 1987 in Kabul.

In order to implement the further wishes of our people's state to establish a nationwide peace, the session also approved the following legal documents:

A third supplement to the civil law on resolving the problem that, after the completion of [word indistinct] term and conclusion of its renewal, children should be given to relatives for their sound training.

The adjustment of the first supplement of the law on the rights and privileges of the injured and disabled and relatives of the martyrs of the April Revolution, in order to remove the problems of families of permament or temporary state employees, who were eliminated in the early years of the revolution without any reason by court order, and whose pension rights have not yet been fulfilled.

Extension of the term of decree No 47, dated April 1986, by the Revolutionary Council Presidium until the end of the second round of the cease-fire based on a decision of September 1987 by the High Commission for National reconciliation concerning the remission of crimes of those people who made excuses not to carry out military service in the ranks of the Armed Forces.

Adjustment of Item 2 of Article 12 of the domestic and foreign private investment law in the DRA.

A treaty on the principles of activities of the countries researching outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, and a treaty about the (?rescue) and return of astronauts and the return of objects which have been launched into space.

Adjustment of Item 6 of the work procedure on the preparation and proposal of legal documents.

A regulation on ways to assess the request to form and approve political parties.

A decree on the travel of DRA subjects residing temporarily or permanently abroad for various reasons or who are inside as refugees. [as heard]

Supplement No 1 to the DRA law on conscription.

A decree on the periodical promotion of medical workers of the DRA Medical Institute of Science, without taking grades into account.

A decree on abandoning the regulation pertaining to the methods of calculation and the use of the nationalized and confiscated properties and properties without any heir or any owner under the security of the state, in connection with the decrees approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium on the restitution of returnees' properties and other cases and examples. This includes some chapters of the relevant regulations, although other chapters are in need of assessment.

At today's session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, a number of issues were assessed and studied in connection with punishment. After a comprehensive discussion, the remaining prison terms of seven persons were commented on and the prison terms of a number of others were reduced.

In connection with three persons who were sentenced to prison terms on charges of murder or homicide and one person who was sentenced on a charge of desertion, it was decided that they should continue their prison terms. Concerning another person who was convicted on a charge of embezzlement, not only was a reduction refused but decisions were taken to bring the issue under serious assessment and control.

A number of organizational issues were also discussed at this session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, and in each case a resolution was issued.

The work of the session was attended by Nezamuddin Tazeb, head of the Supreme Court; Muhammad Kabir, minister of finance; representatives of the international relations and Armed Forces departments of the PDPA Central Committee; and representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Justice and the State Committee for Labor and Social Services.

Karwal Addresses PDPA Congress on Constitution

LD261923 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1755 GMT 19 Oct 87

[Speech by Mir Saheb Karwal, secretary of the PDPA Secretariat and candidate member of the PDPA Politburo, to the 19 October session of the second nationwide PDPA conference in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] Comrade delegates: The expression of public opinion on the draft constitution of Afghanistan is a most important achievement, in fact, it is a historic

event. This achievement convincingly shows that the national reconciliation policy is causing profound and vast changes in society and in the state.

The PDPA Central Committee report, which was presented by Comrade Najib, included a comprehensive assessment and conclusions about the importance of the achievements with regard to the draft constitution and the advantages of this document. The report presented a clear outline and format which enabled the essence and concept of the document to be conveyed for the consideration of the heart and wisdom of every Afghan.

Allow me [word indistinct] to talk about the main results of this expression of public opinion on the new constitution and to talk about the ways, forms, and new methods of improving this work.

Comrade delegates, as you know, in the history of Afghanistan no draft has ever been put forward for public consideration. Who would have thought that all strata of the population—including farmers and nomads—would actively take part in discussing the draft constitution? For the first time our people have participated in discussing such a draft.

Today we are talking about the draft constitution. In a few months, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution. There is a strong connection between these two events. It was only as a result of the April Revolution that a popular constitution could come into existence. The constitution creates a broad basis for implementing the revolution's causes.

The document which was advanced for public consideration is the outcome of hard work by a large group of people; namely, the commission which drafted the constitution. The draft constitution takes into account the universal declaration of human rights, the international convention on civil and political rights, the international convention on economic and social rights, and other important international documents.

Similarly, the constitutions of 50 foreign countries were studied for this purpose. (?The country's previous constitutions and the views of prominent constitutional lawyers were also taken into account.) The constitutional commission used the view and ideas of intellectuals, scholars, specialists, clergy, experienced party and state officials, and activists of social organizations [words indistinct] are collected and unified by the Armed Forces section of the PDPA Central Committee and then they are being sent to the constitutional commission.

Comrades, [words indistinct] it is obvious that various counterrevolutionaries justify their undeclared war by saying that they are fighting for their faith. They claim that Islam in the DRA is in danger.

The DRA from the beginning recognized and still recognizes the holy religion of Islam and actively supports it. How can they claim that Islam is being ignored or even insulted when the state pays the salaries of 13,000 imams and spends millions of afghanis to maintain and restore mosques and religious schools which are destroyed by these so-called warriors of faith? The state pays the poor so that they can perform their religious obligation of making a pilgrimage to Mecca and other sacred places. The falseness of this sort of claim is also proven by the draft constitution in which two sections deal with Islam. By contrast, the 1355 [1977] Constitution allocated only one section to Islam.

These are the facts. These facts are objective and we cannot ignore them. The people of Afghanistan are totally familiar with the true faces of the so-called strugglers of the ideological path. These are the people who destroy mosques, Islamic sacred places and shrines, and places of worships. They kill preachers, prayer leaders, the elderly, and children. They become religious when they want to mislead the people and provoke them against existing power.

The state has a special place in the draft strategic economic charter, which has been adjusted to mobilize and logically use all the country's resources to remove backwardness, to enhance the people's living conditions, and to purposefully improve the social and economic structure of society.

The development of the national economy has been adjusted in accordance with the plan. The state owns great financial and natural resources. However, despite this the draft attaches great value to the development of the private sector for the country's economic growth. This issue is in total conformity with existing realities in our country. In this connection, it has been envisaged in the plan that the state not only guarantees the existance of private ownership, but encourages efforts by the private sector. The ground has been prepared for mutually beneificial cooperation with private investors, including within the framework of the mixed sector and individually.

The duties of the state in implementing democratic changes in the agricultural sphere, with the consideration of the interests of hardworking peasants and other landowners, have been contemplated in the draft. Also, the role of individual productive activities by tradesmen, nomads, herdsmen, businessmen, and other private investors has been envisaged in the draft.

It is noted in the draft that the state will maintain ownership of all state properities. Seven [as heard] types of ownership have been mentioned in the draft: state, cooperative, mixed, private, personal endowment, and ownership by social organizations.

The enemy accuses the existing Afghan regime of intolerance toward the strata and classes of people and toward not including the toilers. This criticism is irresponsible. It is obvious that the revolution ended feudalism and prefeudalism, as well as profiteering in the country. The DRA has never fought against the nontoiling strata, and broad and real possibilities have been considered in the new DRA draft constitution in order that these people may participate in the high echelons of state power. These bodies were formed for these people at the beginning of the national reconciliation policy and they have been implemented.

The PDPA contemplates that up to (?20 percent) of the opposition can be included in the state power bodies.

The role of the state is fully reflected in social and moral spheres. The state policy is directed toward implementing the following important duties in these spheres: To comprehensively ensure social welfare; to unite all nationalities, tribes, and clans, not only from the legal view point, but also to ensure their equal rights in all spheres. It should be noted that the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium recently approved the DRA Labor Law, in which the right of retirement has been ensured to all categories of employees. The legal, political, economic, social, and personal principles of the people have been comprehensively, extensively, and openly incorporated into the plan.

I particularly want to mention a chapter of the draft which states that all DRA subjects may use their rights without exception, without limitation, and without discrimination.

The draft emphasizes that the rights and freedoms of citizens, which will be expanded as progressive changes in the country are achieved, are inseparably linked with their responsibility to society and the state. Specific articles concerning the settlement of the national question are in the draft constitution. Specifically, the draft legally guarantees the equality of all nationalities, tribes, and clans in the country. It has been said that the state pursues a policy of comprehensive development, understanding, friendship, and cooperation with all nationalities, tribes, and clans of the country for the purpose of maintaining political, economic, social, and cultural equality and of ensuring the rapid growth of backward regions to reach equality in these areas. The draft envisions that children will be educated in the mother tongue in accordance with the demands of their parents.

The draft defines the composition and authority of the tribal assembly. The tribal assembly, which will convene in the near future, will ratify the constitution and elect the president. This assembly will be convened by a Revolutionary Council Presidium decree.

In accordance with the draft constitution, Afghanistan will be a republic. The national assembly will be the highest legislative organ and at the same time will be the source of the state's power. The president, who will be chief of state, will carry out his tasks within the framework defined in the constitution.

The national assembly will be composed of two houses: a national assembly and a senate. The method of electing delegates is defined by the election law.

In accordance with the draft, one-third of the senators will be elected by DRA citizens, one-third will be elected by the provincial councils, and the remaining one-third will be appointed by the president.

The president, as mentioned, will be chief of state.

The draft constitution provides for laws and resolutions passed by the national assembly to be enforced by the president. In cases of disagreement with the national assembly, the president has the power to veto.

In the draft constitution, the general principles of organization and activity of local organs of state power and administration and judicial organs in the DRA are defined. The comprehensive organization and activity by these organs will be defined by special regulations.

In consideration of the peaceloving aims of the April Revolution and the complexity of Afghanistan's international position, which was created by the reactionary circles of imperialist countries, and also in consideration of the firm relations between internal and external factors in the country's development, for the first time a special article in the draft constitution is devoted to the DRA's foreign policy.

This article states that the DRA, as a member of the Nonaligned Movement, pursues a peace-loving policy and struggles for broader international cooperation for the consolidation of the people's security.

This is, comrades, the content of the DRA draft constitution. It was open to public opinion on 15 June. Our party organized and led this expression of opinion in a necessary manner. Our party organized and led opinion concerning the draft in such a manner that illiteracy, the isolation and dispersal of villages, and terror by the enemies were not able to create obstacles vis-a-vis explanatory work or cause the cessation of this process. In every province, city, and district, headquarters for the organization of collecting opinions, preacher groups, and work commissions were formed. The PDPA Central Committee has trained 500 preachers at special seminars who are carrying out fundamental explanatory work.

The state and party staff, mullahs, credible personalities, teachers, and students of upper level classes, have been recruited in localities to collect public opinion concerning the draft constitution. Almost 120,000 copies of the

text of the draft constitution have been published in the country's national languages. Radio, television, and press are fruitfully advancing the reflection of the public opinion.

The process of preparing the draft constitution and public opinion has been assessed several times at sessions of the PDPA Central Committtee Politburo and the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium. The constitution commission, under the leadership of Comrade Najib, and the working committee, under the leadership of esteemed Hatef, have been and are still carrying out the great task of organization.

The leadership of the country and the members of the constitutional commission anxiously awaited the first reflections on the draft to see how the courageous and freedom-loving Afghan people would receive it. During the first days of opinion, it was shown that the people have considered this their own constitution.

This document was discussed by the organizations of the National Front, trade unions, the DYOA, the National Council of Women, cooperatives, creative unions, and other organizations. Special resolutions voicing support for the draft constitution were passed at party meetings, and at district, city, and provincial conferences. A total of 2 million people took part in expressing opinion about the draft. Our ancient country has never before seen such broad political activity. People of all ages, old and young, men and women from various parts of the country, from various tribes, nationalities, and clans of the country, party members and nonparty members inside the Armed Forces, peasants and intellectuals, traders and artisans, studied and assessed with fervor and enthusiasm the draft constitution. They proposed specific changes and amendments.

In consideration of these realities we can state that for the first time the great gain of the national democratic April Revolution—the existence of new Afghan citizens, the citizens who consider the public interest as their personal interest—came to the fore.

Comrades, it can be confidently stated that the draft constitution has affected all strata of our society throughout the country. This draft did not leave anyone indifferent. Even those who did not say anything after the April Revolution began talking or took up pens. This is a new phenomenon worthy of attention.

From the very beginning of collecting opinion, the party organizations and the state organs tried to organize an expression of opinion by the broad participation of those areas which are outside state control and also members of armed groups and the refugees who are abroad. The ground has been prepared for our poor and insulted compatriots who live in Iran and Pakistan as a result of deception by the enemies of the revolution, who live either in poverty or on the orders of their commanders who have been sold to dollars, who intimidate and shed the blood of their brothers and sisters and fire bullets at our people who are weary of war. The party members and preachers, by accepting many hardships and the danger of losing their lives, have and continue to organize meetings to explain the constitution in the villages outside state control.

The outcome achieved is indicative of the fact that our people are striving toward truth and peace. As a result of an initiative by the party committee of Nimruz, a meeting of the heads of armed groups who were active in the province was convened. In Balkh Province the opposition invited the propaganda group of artillery division (?18) to explain to them the contents of the draft for a full day.

The irreconcilable part of the counterrevolutionary forces received the draft constitution with indignation and impetuosity. The wrathful resistance of the enemies of national reconciliation is understandable. Ending the fratricidal war means that dollars, pounds, and deutschemarks will no longer find a way into their pockets. This is an undeniable fact and for this reason they cannot offer the people of Afghanistan anything except Stingers.

We tell the opposition: This is the draft constitution which lays before you. Read and assess it. Submit your suggestions. All critical viewpoints and proposals will be considered by the commission of the constitution's draft and an appropriate decision will be made. Moreover, if there are serious differences of opinion about this or that section of the constitution, the working commission is ready to talk to you about these differences.

The invitation for public opinion on the draft constitution is directly connected to the solution of undelayable tasks in every province, district, and village, and, in the first place, the cessation of bloodshed in the country. Evidence of this fact is that more areas come under the control of state sovereignty. For instance, over the past 2 months, 200 villages in Qandahar have joined the people's sovereignty. The districts of Maywand and Takhta Pol have been declared peace areas. The provinces of Nimruz and Farah have now been practically transformed into peace regions. In Herat Province in recent months, elections for state power and administration organs have been conducted in 214 villages. Great efforts to create peace in Hazarajat and among the nomads goes on as well. Therefore, seeking public opinion on the draft constitution has led to strong support for the national reconciliation policy and has identified more clearly the supporters and the opponents of this policy.

Comrades: The constitution drafting commission precisely classifies proposals and viewpoints. They are being unified and analyzed. However, many opinions repeat the same points. It has now become obvious that substantial work needs to be carried out in order to change people's opinions. Moreover, some opinions are being

expressed by the inhabitants and by conference participants. Certain questions are being submitted which are to be answered at this lofty tribune.

Some ask what are the differences between the draft of the new constitution and the constitutions of 1924, 1931, 1964, and 1977. The history of the evolution of the constitution emanates from the tradition of the struggle for national independence and freedom for the political, social, and economic progress of the country.

In the first constitutional reform, which was carried out by Amanollah Khan, the progressive foundation of the state was laid down. But this positive policy in subsequent eras was not fully realized. The previous constitutions had, from the viewpoint of their contents, similar goals—the protection of the sovereignty of the ruling minority against the masses of the people.

The success of the April Revolution is the inception of broad democratic changes in the country's political life because a new state format came into existence as a result of the ratification of the basic principles. I note that the decision of the draft constitution was made at the 16th PDPA Central Committee plenum. But organizational work on the draft constitution was started after the 18th PDPA Central Committee plenum.

Now, entirely new sections on broadening the social bases of the people's sovereignty, a coalition government, closer coordination between the state and private sectors, national reconciliation, a multiparty system, and so on, are included in the draft constitution. The draft is the organic mixture of revolutionary theory and practice. The draft is the continuation of logical development through the use of experience and the best national structures. We have every reason to declare that the draft constitution is the logical result of previous efforts for the renovation of legislation and the national structures.

In many letters and discussions different views have been expressed concerning the name of our state. Nevertheless, the majority is of the opinion that its prerevolutionary name, the Republic of Afghanistan, should be restored. There are many reasons for this, about which we have spoken before. I mention here only one reason: that the state's revolutionary character cannot be specified by its name, but through the contents, forms, and methods of its reality. Clearly speaking, the matter is not the name but how we want to build our republic.

Section 4 of the constitution on the party's position and its role in society has been assessed in different ways, particularly in the party. Some party members even tried to consider this section as an effort to distance ourselves from party principles and the action plan. I once again mention that the matter is neither retreat from the positions nor is it the loss of positions. The party's leading role is not being determined by wishful thinking and resolutions but by objective and practical works. This is the alphabet of every revolution. Therefore, I fully agree with and support Comrade Najib, PDPA general secretary, on this issue.

About the second group of proposals, those related to the president and the national assembly, it may be said that the contents of the proposals on this chapter of the draft constitution are summarized in the following issues:

- The restriction of presidential authority;

- The reduction of the duration of presidential and parliamentary authority;

- The presidential responsibilities are to be taken into account.

Recognize that these are not simple questions. The constitution drafting commission is duty bound to find satisfactory responses to these questions.

It is thought that these questions are essentially correct. They will be considered with complete impartiality and should be included in the draft constitution. There are many questions about the draft constitution that require public opinion to answer. In certain cases this has gone outside the frame of the specified formula. But in many cases public opinion-seeking changed to real and factual public discussion on the most fundamental issues like peace, national reconciliation, and agreement on our country's fate. The consultation of public opinion about the draft constitution actually has a free and democratic character. (?The country's press) published the public's opinions fully and without censorship. Our revolutionary originality (?shows) how much we support the expansion of democracy.

Public opinion is revealing the stable unity of the people, the party, and the expansion of the social bases of the revolution. Public opinion on the draft constitution is indicative of the sincere support of our peace-loving people with regard to the domestic and foreign policy of the DRA and its cordial efforts toward reconciliation. Public opinion on the draft constitution has become a good school of political and state education for the masses. It is certain that the draft constitution will become an instrument for intensifying the process of national reconciliation. Therefore, the first duty of every party member is to comprehensively work for the commissioning of the draft constitution.

The upcoming convening of the tribal assembly is before us. Its aim is to solve these important tasks—the ratification of the constitution, and the election of a president. A lot of work remains to be done concerning the creation of the first national assembly. Proposals concerning the composition of the coalition government, which will be responsive to the national reconciliation policy and which will have the power to effectively utilize its authorities, have been prepared.

All these important and complicated matters are to be achieved concurrently, because all these matters are related to each other and one emanates from the other. Therefore, we all should realize the responsibilities that lay before us and learn from the lessons of the past. We have to strongly bear in mind that the revolutionaries of the world have one advantage: To be the first where it is the most difficult. They stand in the frontline and work more than others and in a more organized manner. It could not be otherwise. We will progress under the banner of the new constitution toward national reconciliation. Our constitution is the most important document of the national reconciliation process and accord. It is the constitution of peace, prosperity, and progress.

Bangladesh

AFP: Bombs Explode at Ruling Party Meeting

BK300354 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 30 (AFP)—Bomb explosions left at least 20 people injured at a meeting of the ruling Jatiya Party in southern Bangladesh, press reports said Friday.

The *Bangladesh Observer* said bomb blasts left at least 20 people injured Thursday [29 October] at a meeting of the ruling party in Barisal, south of here.

Communications Minister Matiur Rahman and the ruling party parliamentary whip Ruhul Amin Howladar, who were attending the meeting, escaped unharmed, the newspaper said.

Ershad Says Opposition Destabilizing Country

BK291642 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said the primary objective of politics should be guided by the (?positive) attainment of welfare of the people. Addressing the upazila and pourosabha [subdistrict and municipality] chairmen in Dhaka today, he said his constructive politics of peace, progress, and development is being pursued by his government. He regretted that showing total disregard to democratic norms, the opposition politicians are now out to create a law and order situation to destabilize the country and the ongoing democratic progress. The president said the failures of these parties while in power in the past and their present negative attitude have alienated themselves from the ranks of the people. Citing examples, he said the 48-hour strike call was scoffed and all the programs of the opposition relating to radio and TV, traffic and highways and rail, and upazilas have failed in the face of nonparticipation of the people.

Turning to the upazila system of administration, the president said he will always uphold the upazila concept as a means to accelerate rural uplift and take measures to strengthen its very base. In this context, he announced that his government has taken decision to hold elections of the Union Parishad [council] in late December this year on completion of its present 5-year term. Election to other local bodies will be held in phases.

Describing the upazila chairmen as the front-ranking soldiers of development, the president called upon them to foil the designs of the opposition against the upazila system which has not only democratized the local administration, but also shifted the focus of development thrust from the urban areas to the rural areas. He said these positive results of upazila could not satisfy the vested interests of the opposition as they are scared of incorporating the common man in the process of power and they are out to dismantle the system. Jatiya Party Secretary General and Local Government and Rural Development Minister Shah Moazzem Hussain also spoke on the occasion. [passage omitted]

India

Arrests in Madras at Media Coverage Protest

BK261250 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Oct 87

[Text] In Madras, about 250 persons were arrested when they attempted to picket AIR [All India Radio] and Doordarshan [Television] stations today. The picketing was called by Dravida Kazhagam, Tamil Nazu Kamaraj Congress, and seven other parties to protest against what they called AIR's and Doordarshan's misinformation about the situation in Jaffna.

BRIEFS

Cultural Exchange With Ethiopia

A cultural exchange program between India and Ethiopia for 1988-90 was signed in New Delhi today. Under the program India will offer 3 positions for training of Ethiopian personnel in the technical teachers institute in Madras and 10 scholarships for pursuing studies in Indian universities or institutions. Both sides will exchange information on the educational systems of the two countries. [Excerpt] *[Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Oct 87 BK]*

Iran

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD301203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Report on Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammad Emami-Kashani, spokesman for and member of the Council of Guardians, at Tehran University on 30 October]

[Text] In today's Friday prayer sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani pointed to the UN Charter, which says that if the Soviet Union attacks another

country, propaganda forces [as heard] should be mobilized against the aggressor country. It also says that all financial and other kinds of resources should be supplied to the country that is the victim of such aggression. He asserted: The United States and certain Western countries, by endorsing the goals contained in the UN Charter, sought to condemn Hitler and the leaders of the Nazi party, but they were unaware that they themselves would become more evil than Hitler. Despite the fact that Iraq's aggression was obvious to everyone, these countries assisted Iraq instead of declaring this aggression and conducting propaganda against Iraq and determining its punishment. Instead of mobilizing financial and other resources on behalf of the victim, they set up a boycott against us. They placed all these resources at the disposal of the Iraqi regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ememi-Kashani stated that even with its extensive military presence in the Persian Gulf, the United States is not really able to do anything and therefore has embarked on an economic embargo against Iran. He said: These kinds of actions will have no effect on the fighters of Islam, on the selflessness of the nation, and on the decision of the imam of the ummah. He added: By embarking on such deeds, the United States has increased the wrath of nations against itself. Following its recent move in the Persian Gulf, which caused a fall in the value of the dollar and in the shares on the world's stock markets, the United States has brought fear to the Western world. We hope that the United States will wake up and chastise the Reagan administration and make Reagan make amends for these actions. If the United States cannot do this, then the fighters of Islam and the Iranian nation will force him to make amends more than ever before.

With regard to the preventive operations by Iran in the imposed war, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Emami-Kashani affirmed: Until the Iraqi regime stops its criminal deeds of bombing residential, commercial, and civilian areas, the Islamic Republic of Iran will intensify its preventive operations. He then referred to the nationwide marches of 4 November, the day of the occupation of the nest of spies and students' day, which are to be staged on Wednesday. He said: The march that has been announced to take place on 4 November will be unprecedented because the Iranian nation's contempt for the United States has increased. Hopefully, the Muslims of the world, who are united with the Islamic Republic of Iran, will demonstrate their anger on this day toward the leaders of the United States.

Missile Fired at Air Force HQ in Baghdad

NC300607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] In retaliation for the recent aerial attacks by the Zionist Iraqi regime against our country's civilian areas, the building of the Air Force Headquarters of the Iraqi ruling regime, located in the center of Baghdad, was hit by a missile of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] Air Force at 0107 hours this morning [2137 GMT on 29 October]. Following this missile attack, a communique was issued by the headquarters of the three branches of the IRGC as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O valiant nation of Islam! O combatant, martyr-nurturing Iranian nation! Following the latest provocative act by the criminal rulers of the Zionist regime of Saddam, which has manifested itself in aerial attacks on civilian areas of our country—particularly the bombing of two civilian areas in the Fars and Khuzestan Provinces over the last 2 days which martyred and wounded a number of our compatriots—retaliatory measures of the Islamic fighters are continuing with great intensity.

The headquarters of the IRGC's three branches pays tribute to the lofty status of the civilian martyrs of the cowardly attack by the antihuman Iraqi Ba'thist regime and conveys congratulations and condolences to the imam of the nation and the martyr-nurturing ummah, particularly the combatant and courageous people of Fars Province, and announces: The scions of Islamic Iran attacked the Air Force Headquarters building of the Iraqi aggressor regime in the center of Baghdad at 0107 today with a surface-to-surface missile of the IRGC Air Force missile unit. The IRGC once again affirms that until the enemy's troublemaking is halted, military, economic, and industrial installations of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities—except the four cities of peace in Iraq—will continue to be the targets of violent attacks by Islamic warriors. The noble ones of the IRGC Air Force missile unit are ready, along with other infidel-battling forces of Islam, to give a categorical response to the enemy's atrocities and to inflict further blows and losses on the decrepit rulers of the Baghdad American regime and the supporters of the tottering Saddam regime.

Besharati Rules Out 'Confrontation With U.S.

NC291750 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The movement started by the United States to preserve Saddam has destroyed U.S. prestige. This was stated by Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati at a political roundtable in which Mr Majedi, first deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, and Mr Hoseyni, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy, also participated. Mr Besharati added: The United States and NATO countries have not obtained any results from their presence in the Persian Gulf. Their actions have backfired.

Mr Besharati also ruled out the possibility of a major, extensive confrontation, stating: The United States does not have the capability to confront us [Amrika emkan-e chenin dargirira ba ma nadarad].

Mr Besharati described the U.S. commotion over economic sanctions against Iran as useless and pointed out: Our experience has been that each imposition of sanctions has proved to be more constructive for us.

Iravani Returns From Pakistan, Views Accord

NC301105 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Iravani returned from Pakistan last night and explained to our correspondent the details of the memorandum of understanding between Iran and Pakistan. The first part of our reportage will deal with the views of our minister of economic affairs and finance:

[Begin recording] [Iravani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The quantum of exchanges between the two countries was stipulated at $500 million. Also, it was decided that 20,000 barrels of oil per day will be purchased by Pakistan. Iran would import staple goods such as 250,000 tons of rice, as well as wheat, tarpaulins, and various cotton products. As a result of the talks, Iran will sell 200 buses to Pakistan and the Pakistani side has announced its intention to purchase an additional 1,000 buses from Iran. Pakistan will also buy pharmaceuticals from Iran. The ceiling for banking credit for bilateral trade has been increased from $40 million to $60 million. Another salient feature of the accord is the consensus on transport and the use of Pakistani ports for the transit of Iranian goods, at the rate of 2 million tons in the current year. Details of the Iranian-Pakistani shipping agreement were ratified at this session.

Bilateral cooperation was agreed upon in the agricultural and industrial fields, as well as in the field of minerals used in agricultural research, and the cultivation of different varieties of seeds, animal husbandry, and (?shrimp) breeding. Under the present accord, of the 200 Pakistani veterinarians who were to be recruited under a previous accord, 75 have now been enlisted. In the industrial field, cooperation among engineering industries, sowing and harvesting equipment, and some other industries, was proposed by Pakistan. Iran suggested planning cooperation in the steel and copper industries, as well as in the leather tanning industry, and ceramics.

In the cultural area, the agreement made provisions for an exchange of teachers, students, and scholarships, as well as [words indistinct] for students and youths of the two countries. The Economic and Financial Committee discussed the issue of tax exemption for the two countries' shipping corporations. Other topics of mutual interest were discussed and the sessions in Pakistan were most beneficial with regard to a mutual consensus (?in most areas) and to future prospects for expandinhg reciprocal relations between the two countries.

Immediately in the wake of the U.S. announcement of an economic embargo against Iran—of course, the volume of our trade was not that extensive, as we did not have formal ties; most of it was propaganda not fact—we signed a memorandum of understanding with Pakistan for large-scale economic cooperation based on a broadening of relations, which is a firm blow to the U.S. propaganda policy. [end recording]

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkey's Oksay

Agreement on Oil Supply

LD292000 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Iran and Turkey inked a letter of understanding here Thursday on the basis of which Iranian crude oil will be bartered for Turkish kerosene.

The agreement, signed by visiting Turkish Minister of State for Oil Affairs Kazim Oksay and Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, predicts Tehran-Ankara cooperation in the fields of seismography and oil drilling and exploration. According to the agreement, the Islamic Republic will charter oil drilling equipment from Turkey.

Iran agreed to supply Turkey with its 6 million ton oil needs for the current year (1987), which could be increased to 7 million tons. They also discussed the setting up of an Iran-Europe gas pipeline, via Turkey.

Iran's monthly imports of 28,000 tons of kerosene from two Turkish oil companies for use in Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province, were also included in the agreement.

Among other topics discussed by the two was a project to construct oil pipelines from Iran to the Mediterranean via Turkey which will possibly be finalized during the forthcoming visit of Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to Tehran. The Turkish minister also extended an invitation to the Iranian oil minister to pay a visit to Ankara, which the latter accepted.

In an interview following the signing of the agreement, Oksay referring to the deep Tehran-Ankara ties, assured that his country will not join the U.S.-declared economic sanctions against Iran. Turkey has always tried to cooperate with Iran in solving its problems, noted Oksay.

The Turkish minister of state for oil affairs arrived here on October 26.

Further Details on Agreement

TA300745 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] State Minister Kazim Oksay and Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh have signed an agreement in Tehran according to which Turkey will purchase some 6 million tons of crude oil from Iran next year. *Anatolia News Agency* reports that in a statement after the signing ceremony, Aqazadeh said that the

agreement allows Turkey to increase its import of crude oil to 7 million tons in 1988. He added that they have decided to accelerate work on the construction of an oil pipeline to transport Iranian oil to the Mediterranean. Aqazadeh noted that technical delegations will exchange visits before the end of the year to work on this pipeline project. He concluded by saying that the agreement on the project will be concluded during Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Iran.

Terms Discussions 'Successful'

LD292024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, Turkish Minister of State Oksay commented on the bilateral discussions which have taken place during the last 3 days. He said: A memorandum of understanding signed by the two sides will have a positive effect on bilateral relations. He stated: In the same period, discussions and consultations were held not only on crude oil but in all fields. The discussions have proved very beneficial and I hope they will remain so.

Oksay added: Special and desirable relations exist between Iran and Turkey and they will grow in comparison with other countries. It was for this reason that the bilateral discussions were successful.

In the same interview, Oksay announced the official stand adopted by Turkey on the U.S. economic embargo against Iran and also Washington's requests to various countries, including Turkey, to take part in the economic embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stated: Turkey will not take part in the embargo. He added: Special relations exist between Iran and Turkey. Furthermore, the fact that we are neighbors sheds a totally different light on our relations. He added: Turkey will not only not participate in the embargo, but will also take part in resolving Iran's problems as we are neighbors and enjoy special and long-lasting relations.

Concludes 5-Day Visit

LD301151 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—The Turkish minister of state for oil affairs, Kazim Oksay left here Friday morning.

During his five-day stay in Tehran, the Turkish minister held talks with prime minister, as well as ministers of oil, foreign affairs and culture and Islamic guidance.

Expansion of mutual ties were discussed at these meetings and a note of understanding was signed on the basis of which Iran will sell oil to Turkey in return for Turkish kerosene.

Tehran Assails 'Unintelligible' U.S. Policies

NC291851 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0515 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Text] The chain of events in the Persian Gulf inevitably and seriously threatens the interests of the world devourers. If there were, until now, those who considered Washington's roars in the Persian Gulf as a display of U.S. strength, today no one can doubt the weakness and impotence of arrogance in its test of strength with Islam. Events are moving in an awe-inspiring fashion, to the detriment of the United States and those nations that follow Reagan and who have leapt into the flames in the Persian Gulf. However, there is no conceivable solution except the retreat of the interlopers or the deadly blows struck at them by other nations. The wrong action of Reagan and his inexperienced advisers cannot be justified in any way, and the American public, press, and politicians are asking the Reagan administration: Has not a mistake been made? Has the United States taken the correct line with regard to the Persian Gulf and the imposed war? The doubtful answer by Washington officials proves that even they are uncertain whether or not they are right and that they are unsure whether or not their constant lies are believed by anyone.

Until recently the United States resorted to all means, including lying and political ploys, to have other countries get on its bandwagon. It was even able, through treachery, to convince the Security Council members to approve a resolution that it had devised itself. Security Council Resolution 598 was approved. However, the United States was the first country to violate it. Soon, all the Security Council members realized that Washington had fooled them and that it wanted to use what remained of Security Council prestige to benefit its aggressive and interfering plans in the region. Even though U.S. officials were very pleased with the outcome of this treachery, this fleeting satisfaction did not last. It rapidly led to the political isolation of the United States in the Security Council, and the second resolution of the United States met with serious opposition from the Security Council members. In the preliminary voting phase, the United States to its shame saw that only Mrs Thatcher was willing to sacrifice her country to Washington's unintelligible policies.

The political and propaganda isolation and the tormenting impasse in which Reagan and his inexperienced advisers find themselves are simply the natural outcome of the U.S. acts of treachery in the political and propaganda arenas during the past 5 months. Washington should not be enraged because the Security Council members have proven by their actions that they are unwilling to be fooled by the United States and by Reagan's inexperienced advisers. Washington's great problem is that this political isolation is not the sole result of the Security Council members' decision to turn

their backs on U.S. policies; it is not limited to this. The political isolation of the United States is gradually increasing, and more countries are trying—by condemning the United States or by disavowing Washington's policies—to state their positions on these issues. This comes at a time when U.S. isolation from other countries has taken on serious dimensions, and is gradually being felt and becoming tangible. The Reagan administration should explain to the American people the reason for this failure to understand its policies, although it knows that it has no convincing justification for this political uncertainty and is unable to explain the reason for such half-baked and wrong decisions.

This situation has placed Arab reaction at the crossroads of destiny. It is becoming increasingly clear that regional reaction is jeopardizing its future more and more with its closer ties with the U.S. Administration and its dependence on the U.S. bayonet. The secret here is that with the revelation of major facts that prove the subservience of regional reaction, regional nations are gaining more solid reasons for a serious confrontation with the U.S. mercenaries. This means that Arab reaction is presently engaged in an act of self-destruction. The significance of this will become increasingly clear as the regional situation and the fact that the issue is gradually approaching determining stages are taken into consideration.

The wave of popular support and events which are seen to be serious only after the fact has unknown dimensions, a situation that should cause Washington great anxiety. The facts show that the United States is in an awkward situation and whatever it does will be completely to its detriment. Weinberger's recent remarks expressing Washington's desire to uproot the Iranian nation best manifest the uncertainty and impotence of the United States. Those who are acquainted with propaganda methods can prove that these remarks by Weinberger stem from a feeling of disillusionment and repressed desire and that they are a tacit admission that the roots of arrogance in the region are drying up. The remarks by the empty-headed U.S. secretary of defense show that if Washington is given the opportunity, or if it is not met with deterrence by other nations, it will be tempted to pursue such an objective and may even try its luck at doing something like this. Even though, throughout contemporary history, Washington has always entered the arena with a variety of weapons and has always used different tactics over the years, depending on the political conditions prevailing in the world, nevertheless it has always chosen a world-devouring and plundering course. Efforts to dry up the roots of nations have been its permanent strategy and it has worked toward this end. Weinberger's remarks actually reveal the inhuman nature of U.S. policies and show that the sense of nationhood has always been the main obstacle impeding the materialization of the inhuman policies of the United States.

Weinberger's admission in fact served as counter-propaganda, which backfired on the United States. At a time when Washington badly needed to show a human face and when it was in its interest to don a mask of humanitarianism and support for human rights, Weinberger cast off the mask from the face of the United States and started to howl about drying up the roots of the Iranian nation. This is the same state terrorism that has become the main feature of U.S. foreign policy and has thus been revealed by the U.S. secretary of defense. This is actually the clearest official confession by the United States of its choice of unrestrained terrorism and savagery as the main weapon in its confrontation with a nation. By his remarks, Weinberger has placed a question mark over the entire range of U.S. foreign policy.

By adopting a just position on the imposed war, Islamic Iran is trying to dry up the roots of aggression in the region. This fact and this position are fully understood by all nations and indeed by governments, and no one can find convincing fault with them. Under such conditions, Washington is trying to solve everything by howling, and it propounds the issue of drying up the Iranian nation's roots. Although idiotic, such remarks need a suitable response, a slap in the face. History has shown that the roots of a nation can be dried up only if it gives in to the blackmail of satanic powers and if it unconditionally surrenders to world arrogance. History has shown that when oppressed nations rise against satanic powers, they plant the roots of independence and freedom in their countries and that the roots of a desire for a respectable life spread deeply in them. Any nation that has risen against arrogance and satanic powers has put down its roots in history, has become durable, and has ensured everlasting honor for itself and for future generations.

The wave of popular support in other nations throughout the world for the phenomenon of the Islamic Revolution plainly shows what roots should be dried up and what roots will eventually dry up in the Islamic countries. Even though the answer to this question is clear to a large extent, Weinberger's recent confession has made it clearer that it is the roots of the world devourers in the Islamic countries that are drying up and that this has made the official spokesman of Reagan's band of criminals howl.

Palestinians' Turn Toward Islam Examined

NC281311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Oct 87

[Unattributed political commentary: "Fresh Unrest and Concerns in Occupied Palestine"]

[Excerpts] It was announced yesterday that the army of the Israeli occupiers arrested 18 residents of a Palestinian camp on the West Bank of Jordan. This followed several days of unrest in the camp which led to peoples' homes being searched. [passage omitted]

With the extraordinary Arab League summit to be held in Jordan, which neighbors the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, popular demonstrations or various guerrilla operations against the occupiers are expected. With these acts, the Palestinians, who are under the yoke of the Israeli occupiers, will warn some of the Arab leaders who are in deep slumber that the major issue that should be placed on the agenda of the summit is the continuing Zionist occupation of Palestine.

In addition to the fresh unrest, which further exacerbates the eternal concern and anxiety felt by the occupiers of Palestine, the growing inclination toward Islam among the Palestinians has plunged not only officials of the Zionist regime, but several reactionary Arab leaders as well, into fear of the future. The occupiers' continuing occupation of Palestine, the lack of action by many Arab leaders, and the rejection of nonreligious ideologies by most Palestinian organizations have all led the Palestinian youth—who have been born since the occupation of their territory—to seek new ways to fight the Zionists in view of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The Islamic Jihad organization in Palestine is an example of the turn among the Palestinian people, and especially the youth, toward Islam. This organization, which was established over 10 years ago, was never taken into consideration by the occupiers. It has now been revealed that the motive behind the assassinations of several Zionists was not national but religious in nature. When, before 1967—when the West Bank and Gaza Strip were occupied—Gaza residents joined the Palestine Liberation Army headed by Al-Shuqayri, they were primarily influenced by religious motives. They first went to Egypt. However, following the occupation of the Gaza Strip, they formed small groups and infiltrated into the Strip, prepared to sacrifice everything they had.

However, the main leap came in the wake of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Following that revolution, 6 years ago and in tandem with the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, statements signed by Islamic Jihad began to appear gradually following some guerrilla operations against the Zionists in occupied Palestine. This gave rise to new hopes among the Palestinians. A year ago, members of this group successfully attacked a group of Israeli soldiers near the Wailing Wall, killing and wounding several of them. Following their arrest, some members of this group spoke proudly in court of their operation.

Now more operations are being carried out by Palestinian Muslims against the Israeli occupiers. Even though some Palestinian organizations have attempted to effect a rapprochement with these Islamic groups and to place them under their leadership, it has been determined, nevertheless, that these organizations cannot fully absorb them because of clashing views with regard to modes of struggle and religious ideas.

Presently, in some universities on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Muslim students who believe in the Islamic revolution have gained first and second place in students' elections. Meanwhile, more and more people are turning to the mosques. This has made the Zionists incapable of confronting them, as well as opposing the construction of new mosques. They have no alternative but to carry out heavy-handed suppression. However, the only outcome of this will be the deepening of the Palestinian Muslims' faith.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Peshmerga Attack Northern Bases

LD291215 Tehran IRNA in English 0958 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—More than 50 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and 14 others captured in recent attacks of Peshmergas of the Kurdestan Democratic Party of Iraq on Iraqi military bases in Shaykhan region, in Dahuk Province, northern Iraq.

The Peshmergas attacked enemy bases on Gare Heights [name as received] overlooking towns of Al-Amadiyah, Sartang [name as received], Subare [name as received], Tuka [name as received] capturing six bases and demolishing two others and one 'Khafifa' (light) battalion center.

According to the Ramadan Headquarters, center of irregular warfare operations of Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), the Iraqi regime retaliated by heavily bombarding residential areas in Shaykhan region.

Communique No 3,004

LD291715 Tehran IRNA in English 1606 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 29, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites and other military targets in the Al-Tib region, southeastern Iraq, at 08:32 local time (05:02 GMT) today. The attacking warplanes returned safely to bases after inflicting considerable casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Announcing the above, the 3004th Joint Staff Communique reported here Thursday that as a reprisal against Iraqi bombings of Islamic Republic's non-military centers, Iranian long-range artillery fire shelled most enemy eco-military targets from 20:00 hours local time Wednesday to 16:00 hours local time Thursday, inflicting heavy losses on them.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected 12 cargo ships and oil tankers yesterday, but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them.

Iraqi marine installations along the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway, northern tip of the Persian Gulf, came under the artillery fire of Iranian naval forces yesterday.

Iran's Muslim combatants opened fire on Iraqi armoured units in Helaleh, Sar Dasht, Panjwin and Qasr-e Shirin, northwestern and western sectors, Wednesday, destroying a number of Iraqi tanks and silencing enemy fire.

Exchange of artillery fire between Iranian combatants and Iraqi troops continued throughout the battlefields particularly in Zayd and Majnun Islands, southern sector, with the former holding the upper hand.

Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi engineering operations in Sumar, Kani- Sheykh, Hoseyniyeh and Yebis, western and southern fronts, Wednesday, inflicting heavy losses on several enemy vehicles.

Movement of Iraqi motorized units was checked throughout the war fronts by Iranians' fire Wednesday, concluded the communique.

IRGC, Peshmerga Attack Radar Site

LD291827 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] The installations and the booster antenna of the radar of the Qarah Dagh region, situated in the south of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq, were targeted by the joint fighters of 75th Brigade of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] and the struggling Kurdish Peshmerga and were completely destroyed.

Ramadan Headquarters, center for the irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, reports that the fighters of the 75th Zafar Brigade of the IRGC's Ground Forces, accompanied by the struggling Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga, conducted an onslought on the installations and the booster antenna of the Qarah Dagh radar situated in southern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq and completely destroyed these installations. They killed and injured one battalion and one company of the special Ba'thist forces.

The forces under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters also opened fire on Zamqi base in Halab city, which was being used to crush Kurdish Iraqi strugglers and local inhabitants. They completely destroyed the ammunition warehouses of this base together with various types of military vehicles, and killed more than 20 of the Ba'thist-Zionist forces of Iraq and injured a number of them.

During other operations, a large number of counterrevolutionaries stationed in (Biskarah), situated in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq, which is one of the bases of Iran's counterrevolutionaries inside Iraqi territory, were killed by the fighters of Islam.

The installations and the electrical power plant of Kanipanichah base and the base of the 27th Army Division of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime situated in Salman al Qamar and Saray in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq, came under fire by the fighters of Islam and were destroyed. A number of forces stationed in these bases were killed and wounded. The same report states that the Ba'thist enemy, embarked on an attack from the Shakhi Zardan and Diskara region situated in southeast Al-Sulaymaniyah. However, they encountered resistance from the Kurdish peshmerga and fighters of Islam, and sustaining some losses and casualties, was forced to withdraw.

Pakistan

Zain Noorani Leaves for SAARC Meeting

BK291536 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani left Islamabad today on his way to Kathmandu to attend the SAARC ministerial council meeting scheduled to begin on Saturday [31 October]. This session will be followed by a summit meeting of the heads of state and government from the member countries on Monday. [passage omitted]

Junejo To Head Delegation

BK300914 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has said that important and positive decisions will be taken at the SAARC summit in respect of enhancing cooperation among member states in the social, economic, educational, and cultural fields. He was talking to newsmen in Karachi today before leaving for Kathmandu to lead the Pakistani delegation at the meeting of SAARC Council of Foreign Ministers being held there from tomorrow. The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, will lead the Pakistani delegation at the third SAARC summit.

Iranian Finance Minister Comments on Ties

BK291021 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 28 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to establish preferential trade arrangements to promote bilateral, as well as multilateral, trade among Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Under a memorandum of understanding signed in Islamabad today, both countries agreed to establish such arrangements in the framework of Economic Cooperation Organization. [passage omitted]

The memorandum of understanding was signed by the federal finance minister, Mial Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo, and his Iranian counterpart, Mr Mohammad Javad Iravani, at the end of the third session of the Pak-Iran Joint Ministerial Commission.

Later, addressing a news conference, the Iranian minister said relations between Pakistan and Iran have entered a new phase. He hoped it would lead to greater exchanges in economic, financial, agricultural, industrial, and technical fields. Inaugurating the [words indistinct], he said they also agreed to explore possibilities in joint shipping lines and [words indistinct]. Replying to a question, the Iranian minister said the situation in the Gulf figured during his meetings with the Pakistani president and prime minister, and he explained to them the Iranian point of view. He said Iran stood for withdrawal of foreign forces from the Gulf, as their very presence was causing further escalation of tension. Replying to another question, he said the U.S. ban on trade with Iran will not [words indistinct] Iran as there was virtually no such (?trade) between the two countries.

U.S. Computer Sale to India 'Anti-Islamic'

BK291141 Lahore JANG in Urdu 12 Oct 87 p 10

[Editorial: "The Agreement To Sell a Supercomputer to India"]

[Text] An agreement in principle has been reached between the United States and India on the sale of a supercomputer. The United States plans to supply a supercomputer to India at a cost of $20 million. The decision was made by the United States, despite the apprehension of U.S. experts that India might use the computer to produce nuclear weapons and probably transfer the computer technology to the Soviet Union as well. The U.S. Government's attitude not only reveals its policy of appeasing India, but also exposes its duplicity and hypocrisy in dealing with Pakistan.

Although Pakistan has repeatedly said that it has no intention to use nuclear technology for defense purposes, the aid to Pakistan which had already been approved by the U.S. Government was suspended based on false reports and under the influence of propaganda from Indian and Jewish lobbies. The United States has expressed its readiness to supply a modern computer—which, according to U.S. experts, can be used for manufacturing nuclear weapons—to India, a country which has already carried out a nuclear test explosion and which, according to international sources, is currently engaged in missile production.

The U.S. decision indicates that it is providing necessary facilities and concessions to India to manufacture a nuclear weapon. The U.S. attitude also reveals its anti-Islamic nature. The United States does not want to see any Islamic country gain nuclear expertise and utilize this new technology for its progress and prosperity. Pakistan, therefore, has been left with no alternative but to continue its efforts to develop and utilize nuclear technology and accelerate its efforts to escape U.S. entanglements of loans and aid. Pakistan should particularly review its foreign policy and develop friendly relations with all neighboring countries, including the Soviet Union, and expedite the efforts to resolve the Afghan dispute.

Commentary on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

BK251530 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Oct 87

[Syed Nazir Bukhari commentary]

[Text] Adviser to the Austrian Government, Professor Dr (Karl Irefiddler) of Vienna University, has been visiting Pakistan to study some of the nuclear research establishments of the country. In an interview, he has said that Pakistan is an advanced country by any standards, as far as its research in the field of nuclear medicine and oncology is concerned. After visiting the Institute of Nuclear Medicine, Dr (Karl) expressed the view that Pakistan has acquired optimum standard of diagnostic treatment in nuclear medicine. He described the institute as the model research center in nuclear medicine. After seeing Pinstech [Pakistan Institute of Nuclear Science and Technology] and other research laboratories, Dr (Karl) had to comment that Pakistan had evolved very useful varieties of cotton and wheat and the day was not far when full benefits of various nuclear fields would start reaching the common man.

The statement of the Austrian professor bears testimony to the peaceful efforts Pakistan is making in the advancement of nuclear research and assails the propaganda of some interested countries who allege that Pakistan's efforts in the nuclear field are only directed toward producing weapons-grade material. As a matter of fact, Pakistan's efforts are concentrated on research which extends to all nuclear fields, the processing of uranium included. On the basis of this research, Pakistan has succeeded in fabricating its nuclear fuel and has produced essential materials like zirconium, thus enabling the country to meet energy requirements through nuclear methods.

Using nuclear energy further for peaceful purposes, the Atomic Energy Commission has developed biological techniques for using saline land and has put into operation a commercial gamma irradiation plant for sterilization of medical products. This technique will now be extended for the preservation of food items. Pakistan would also export these results to WHO, FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency. So far, 32 countries have approved over 40 items for irradiation and declared them to be safe for human consumption. As a matter of fact, Pakistan has gained the most valuable and useful experience in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and its research establishment is now recognized as one of the leading centers of nuclear research in the Third World. The Atomic Energy Commission is confident that it can expand its capability to other related areas in nuclear power. On seeing the achievement so far gained

by the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, its claim for further successes in the nuclear field can hardly be denied. On the basis of these tangible results in the field of research, the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission is now planning a center of advanced research in physics and allied disciplines on the lines of the International Center of Theoretical Physics in Italy.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Considers Treaty With India

BK301040 Hong Kong AFP in English 1025 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 30 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene said Friday he will discuss a possible bilateral treaty with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during a meeting in Nepal next week.

Mr Jayewardene told reporters the draft treaty—providing for military and economic co-operation—is based on a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka accord on his country's Tamil separatist conflict.

The two men will be in Kathmandu next week for a summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

"The treaty can be a model to other SAARC members," Mr Jayewardene said. "We must discuss what we have to do further...SAARC can't be just a talking shop."

About 20,000 Indian soldiers have been deployed in Sri Lanka to enforce the July 29 peace accord.

The Indian force launched an offensive October 8 to disarm the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which rejected the accord, refusing to surrender their weapons.

He said some civilians, including some known to him, had died during the offensive, but added: "in war, who can have pity?"

"You can't sit in an air-conditioned office and say shoot this way and that way. This is a mini-war."

"I have complete trust in the Indian Peace Keeping Forces," said the Sri Lankan president. "I am happy to have them."

At least 188 Indian soldiers have died and more than 750 rebels have been killed in the offensive.

Mr Jayewardene declined to give details of the military operation, but said he would consider a fresh amnesty for the LTTE if it surrendered arms unconditionally and joined the mainstream of politics.

"I am prepared to forgive. I forgave even those who invaded Sri Lanka," he said, referring to an Indian airdrop of food to civilians in the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna in May after a Sri Lankan military drive against rebels there.

He said the biggest threat to democratic politics in Sri Lanka is an outlawed Marxist party, the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

He blamed the JVP, which is violently opposed to the July Indo-Sri Lankan pact, for the deaths of at least 38 of his supporters since the accord was signed.

"I am prepared to give the JVP an unconditional pardon if they give up violence and enter the mainstream of politics," he said.

Sri Lankan troops were capable of meeting the JVP threat Mr Jayewardene said, ruling out foreign military assistance in the south of the island where the JVP has a stronghold.

A meeting of all political parties to discuss the question of the JVP will be called once the Provincial Councils Bill, which is now before the Sri Lankan Parliament and the Supreme Court, becomes law, he said.

Mr Jayewardene expected the councils bill, promulgated by the July accord and giving limited autonomy to Tamils in Northern and Eastern Provinces, would be approved within the next two weeks.

He said he hoped elections to the provincial councils would be held before the end of the year as scheduled, despite the current unrest.

India's Natwar Singh Discusses Reconstruction

BK291411 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1346 GMT 29 Oct 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Indian Minister of State for External Affairs K. Natwar Singh has said that the Indian Peace Keeping Force has completed an important phase of their operations in the discharge of their responsibilities under the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement.

In his statement issued today he said that the objective of his visit, which is part of a process of ongoing consultations and cooperation between the two governments, was to take stock of the situation that had developed in the north and the east of Sri Lanka.

The visit was also aimed at making a joint assessment of further measures that need to be taken to expedite the process of restoring normalcy and bringing about stability in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

This will include the return and rehabilitation of refugees and the establishment of democratic, political, and administrative structures as envisaged in the agreement.

Mr Natwar Singh had detailed discussions with President J .R. Jayewardene, the minister of foreign affairs, Shahul Hameed, Minister of Finance Ronnie de Mel, the minister of lands, land development and Mahaweli development Gamini Dissanayake, and the minister of rural industrial development S. Thondaman.

The Indian minister of state for external affairs said his discussions with Sri Lankan leaders also covered bilateral, economic and cultural cooperation as well as matters that may come up for discussions at the SAARC summit in Kathmandu next week.

President Jayewardene is due to meet the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, in Kathmandu.

Mr Natwar Singh who arrived in Colombo last night left for New Delhi this afternoon.

Indian Forces Continue Jaffna Clean-Up

Relief Ship Arrives

BK290558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, one more stronghold of the LTTE, Kodakamam, in Jaffna has fallen to the peacekeeping force [PKF]. Two columns of the PKF advanced via Chavakachcheri and linked up at Navatkuli last night wresting control of Kodakamam. The Kodakamam-Chavakachcheri-Jaffna road has now been opened after clearing mines and booby traps.

Meanwhile, the relief operations continue on a massive scale. Another ship, (*Barkuka-I*), carrying relief supplies has reached Jaffna port. Highest priority has been given to an earlier revival of the civil administration in Jaffna town.

Major General Harkirat Singh resumed command of the PKF in Jaffna after consultations in Delhi.

12,000 Temple Refugees Freed

BK291600 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Colombo, Oct 29 (AFP)—Crack Indian Army Gurkha commandos have cleared mines around a besieged Hindu temple complex in northern Sri Lanka freeing about 12,000 people held inside by Tamil rebels, an Indian military source said Thursday.

An Indian High Commission (embassy) spokesman Thursday confirmed the refugees were coming out of the temple.

About 300 Gurkhas breached a ring of landmines buried by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters holed up at the Nallur Kandasamy Kovil, the source said.

An estimated 12,000 people who had taken refuge inside poured out overnight Wednesday, the source said.

But the LTTE is reportedly holding 18 Indian soldiers hostage inside

"The LTTE wants us to storm the temple to get some publicity mileage, so we will not attack it but continue the siege till the LTTE men inside give themselves up," the source said.

The mine-clearing operation was carried out amid sporadic sniper fire from LTTE gunmen positioned on roof tops of buildings inside the 16th century temple, which is surrounded by a 10 foot (3 metre) wall, the source said.

No Indian casualties were reported, he added.

Nearly two million Hindus in Sri Lanka consider the Nallur temple to be their holiest shrine.

The Indian spokesman said the temple was the last pocket of LTTE resistance after Indian troops Sunday captured Jaffna, the LTTE headquarters since 1983, at the end of a 17-day military offensive.

At least 188 Indian soldiers died and more than 750 rebels were killed in the operation, which was to enforce a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending four years of Tamil separatist violence in Sri Lanka.

7 LTTE Men Captured

BK300312 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] In Jaffna, basic amenities are expected to be restored in a week's time. The peacekeeping force [PKF] officer in charge of restoring civil administration in the city, Brigadier Kahlon, held discussions with the Sri Lankan authorities in Jaffna in this regard.

Our Jaffna correspondent says the PKF have captured seven LTTE men near the Jaffna university yesterday. They also recovered a large quantity of arms from a house near the Jaffna bus stand. The PKF is continuing its mopping-up operations to eliminate the remaining LTTE resistance around Jaffna.

Peacekeeping Force Captures Chavakachcheri

Helicopters Strafe Area

BK291624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the curfew was relaxed in Jaffna town from 0800 to 1200 [0230-0630 GMT] today. People from various relief camps purchased necessities. The commander of the peacekeeping force, Major General Harkirat Singh, said that strict precautionary measures have been taken during the curfew relaxation period to prevent any incident.

An official spokesman in New Delhi this evening gave the details of the successful operation of the peacekeeping force in capturing the Chavakachcheri town about 32 km east of Jaffna. Chavakachcheri, a confirmed LTTE stronghold, was captured by the peacekeeping force against the heavy volume of fire by the LTTE from an old isolated building in the town. The building was being used as the LTTE headquarters, which was confirmed through intelligence reports. The peacekeeping force decided to strafe the isolated location by helicopters. The spokesman said this is the first occasion when the peacekeeping force has strafed any location in the Jaffna Peninsula. According to reports, 27 bodies of LTTE militants were found in the area.

Six personnel of the peacekeeping force were killed and six others were wounded during the last 24 hours in the eastern Batticaloa District. At least five soldiers, including the commanding officer of the area, were seriously injured when two peacekeeping force trucks hit a land mine last night.

The spokesman said that intelligence reports indicated that the LTTE is trying to regroup in the areas of Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Mannar, and Trincomalee.

Meanwhile, the relief measures have been stepped up in Jaffna. Twelve tons of food was distributed among the refugees during the last 24 hours. Doctors of the peacekeeping force have treated over 200 civilian patients.

20 or More Civilians Killed

BK291652 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 29 (AFP)—About 27 Tamil rebels and six soldiers died when Indian troops took control of another Sri Lankan town from Tamil rebels in an action that ended early Thursday, a government spokesman here said.

Indian Peacekeeping Force helicopters strafed two "isolated" locations of Chavakachcheri before the military "secured" the town, 24 kilometres (15 miles) from Jaffna, the Foreign Office spokesman said.

He said 27 bodies of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas were found in the area. Six Indian troops died and six were injured, he said.

This was the first time the Indians had strafed an area since beginning an offensive against the LTTE in Sri Lanka on October 8, he said.

A Calcutta newspaper reported Thursday morning that at least 20 civilians were killed in the Indian Army strafing of Chavakachcheri.

Telegraph correspondent Sumir Lal said in a front page dispatch from Sri Lanka that two Army helicopters fired rockets and sprayed machine gun bullets at the heart of the town.

"This is the first time that the Indian Peace Keeping Force has deliberately struck at civilian targets," the paper said.

The reporter said the helicopters attacked the central market, a bus stand and nearby houses in six sorties over Chavakachcheri.

The helicopters did not attack the LTTE operational headquarters, about 200 metres (yards) from the market, but hit an adjacent gas station, he said.

In the first attack around noon, when many people were in the market place, several shops, fruit stalls, buses and trucks were destroyed, he said.

"When this reporter reached the spot, a portion of the market was ablaze and stunned boys were recovering the grotesquely mutilated bodies of those killed on the spot. The local hospital was filled with injured persons, many of them still bleeding profusely.

"This reporter counted 15 bodies in the market, seven of them charred beyond recognition, and five others in the local hospital soon after the second sortie.

"The number of casualties is likely to have increased after the subsequent raids," the report said.

Hundreds of people fled towards Kachchai and Kodikamam, to the south of the Jaffna Peninsula, the *Telegraph* report said.

At least 175 Indian soldiers and more than 650 Tamil rebels died in a 17-day battle ending Sunday for Jaffna town, the LTTE's stronghold for two years.

Indian officials have not given civilian casualty figures. Independent sources put the number at between 60 and as many as 700.

About 20,000 Indian soldiers are in Sri Lanka's north and east under the July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka accord aimed at ending the Tamil separatist campaign.

LTTE Jaffna Commander Killed by Indian Forces

BK301150 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Twenty-seven members of the LTTE were killed in the first incident of strafing by the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] of two isolated locations in the Jaffna Peninsula. An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said the operation, carried out by helicopters at Chavakachcheri, the LTTE stronghold 32 km east of Jaffna, which started on Tuesday evening concluded last morning with the IPKF securing the town. According to reports, 27 bodies of the LTTE militants were found in the area. Six IPKF personnel were killed and six wounded during the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that terrorist radio intercepts indicated that Mahattaya, deputy leader of the LTTE and area commander of Jaffna, had been killed. An Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the IPKF has now taken over Kodikamam after a fierce battle with the LTTE. The entire area from Jaffna town to Navatkuli, Chavakachcheri, and Kodikamam, covering a span of about 30 km, is now under the control of the IPKF. The Indian High Commission's spokesman said that relief operations are in full swing for the refugees in areas where the IPKF has established control. The IPKF had distributed 20 tons of food among the refugees during the last 24 hours. The peacekeeping force is also making efforts to restore electricity and provide civic services like water and sanitation in Jaffna.

The IPKF yesterday removed three large land mines in the Batticaloa District. Official sources told *Lanka Puwath* that as the Indian troops were caught up in a series of land mine explosions, the soldiers are now very vigilant and walk well ahead of vehicles on route-clearing patrol, as a safeguard against being caught up in areas riddled with land mines in the Eastern Province.

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